

Exterior Storage of Useful Items (Summary of Shawnee Municipal Code 15.52.180-190)

The City of Shawnee Municipal Code regulates how property owners are allowed to store useful items outdoors. Exterior storage is regulated by the City to maintain the attractive appearance of your neighborhood, while allowing for the outdoor storage of your useful items.

Only the rear yard of a residential property can be used for outside storage, and that area may not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total rear yard. The outside storage area must be enclosed with some type of screening intended to block the view of the stored items from the adjacent properties.

The most common method of screening exterior storage areas is with the use of a solid fence. In the City of Shawnee, a permit is required to construct a fence more than six (6) feet tall and all fences must have the finished side facing toward the adjacent properties. There may be other restrictions on fences, depending on the proposed location.

There are some items commonly stored outside that are exempt from the City's screen requirements:

- Lawn Furniture
- One neatly stacked Cord of Firewood stored on side or rear properties
- BBQ Grill

Also, there are several items that cannot be legally stored outside in any residential area including, but not limited to:

- Disabled Vehicles
- Hazardous Materials
- Contractor Equipment

Outside storage in commercial and industrial areas must comply with the City of Shawnee Planning Commission and the Shawnee City Council approved site plans.

When the City of Shawnee's Codes Administration Division is advised of a particular problem, we first mail a courtesy letter to the property owner in question letting them know of the violation and the current regulations. If the problem is not corrected in a timely manner, a formal violation notice is mailed to the property owner allowing for thirty (30) days to correct the violation.

If the violation persists, municipal court hearings are initiated. If the violation is still not corrected, the City may have to correct the problem and assess the property owner for any abatement costs incurred. In extreme situations, the abatement process may take up to a year or more to complete. The City is more than willing to work with property owners in a reasonable manner to avoid extended violation procedures.

If you have any questions, contact the Codes Administration Division at (913) 742-6010.

