



August 2011 Tip of the Month

Inoperable Vehicles



Hillsborough County’s Property Maintenance Code requires that all properties be kept free from certain conditions that degrade from the health, safety and/or welfare of Hillsborough County’s citizens, including inoperable vehicles. It also prohibits inoperable vehicles in residential districts.

Q. What is an inoperable vehicle?

- The Hillsborough County Property Maintenance Code defines an inoperable vehicle as one which “is in a state of disrepair and or incapable of being moved under its own power.”
- Inoperable vehicles include any vehicle abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, scrapped, junked or in a partially-dismantled condition, including uninflated tires, no wheels, or lacks other parts necessary for the normal operation.
- Any vehicle that, because of mechanical defects, a wrecked or partially wrecked frame, or dismantled parts, cannot be operated in a normal and safe manner is prohibited.
- Any vehicle, or trailer, without a license plate, with a license plate not registered to that vehicle, without a registration sticker affixed to the license plate, or one with a registration that has been expired for 90 days or more is prohibited.

Q. Why are inoperable vehicles considered to be a violation?

- Inoperable vehicles typically leak fluids, such as anti-freeze, gasoline, and other automotive fluids onto the ground contaminating the local area.
- Children trying to play in inoperable vehicles can get locked inside and be overcome by extreme heat during high temperatures.
- Inoperable and dilapidated vehicles detract from a neighborhood’s appearance and invite an undesirable element into the community.



Q. What about my hobby car?

- Vehicles kept within a completely enclosed structure are not considered a violation by Hillsborough County Property Maintenance Code.

Q. What is the penalty for this violation?

- Violators are given a reasonable period of time to comply with the Code.
- If compliance is not achieved in the prescribed time, the case is forwarded for a hearing before the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board or Special Magistrate.
- Anyone found guilty by the Board/Magistrate faces a fine of up to \$1,000 **for each day** the violation continues to exist.
- This fine is assessed as a lien against all properties owned by the violator.
- After running for 90 days, the matter is turned over to the Hillsborough County Attorney’s Office where a determination is made on foreclosure.

Q. How do I report a violation?

- Logging on to www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce and then clicking on the Online Services link on the left side of the page.
- Calling (813) 274-6600 during normal business hours.
- Visiting 10119 Windhorst Road in Tampa.
- Visiting 410 S.E. 30th St. in Ruskin.



Q. What do I do if I’ve received a notice of violation?

If you have any question about what is required of you to achieve compliance with Hillsborough County’s Property Maintenance, contact the Investigator assigned to your case. The Investigator’s name is listed at the bottom of the notice you received.

Q. Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. Hillsborough County does not require any personal identifying information when registering a complaint. Any information provided to the department, including names, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses, are subject to Florida’s Public Record Laws and must be provided to anyone who requests the information. To remain completely anonymous, do not provide any of this information when registering the complaint.

Resources

- [Hillsborough County Code Enforcement](#)
- [Abandoned Property Ordinance](#)
- [Minimum Standards Ordinance](#)
- [Common Residential Violations](#)