



Marion County
OREGON

Marion County's Code Enforcement Program



*Protecting the health and safety
of the county's residents and
visitors, and the livability of the
community*

Marion County Code Enforcement
Sheriff's Office, Marion County Courthouse
100 High St. NE, Salem, Oregon
Phone: (503) 373-4333
Email: enforcement@co.marion.or.us

What is Code Enforcement?

Code Enforcement is a section of the Sheriff's Office that handles violations of various County ordinances. We have two Enforcement Officers who respond to complaints and an Enforcement Aide who provides technical assistance.

What types of complaints do we handle?

Code Enforcement takes complaints for unincorporated areas of the County (outside any city limits). Issues we cover are:

- Graffiti and backyard burning (Salem/Keizer urban growth boundary)
- Excessive day-time noise
- Weed and tall grass (Salem/Keizer urban growth boundary)
- Off-road vehicles
- Zoning violations (i.e. home-based businesses, illegal residences, living in trailers, etc.)
- Building codes (building without a permit, septic failures, dangerous buildings, etc.)
- Rights-of-way and driveway violations
- Nuisance or solid waste (dumping or garbage)
- Road hazards

We don't have authority to enforce:

- Violations inside cities;
- Abandoned vehicles on the street (Sheriff's Office at (503) 588-5094);
- Rats and other rodents (County Health Dept. at (503) 588-5357)
- Backyard burning outside the Salem/Keizer urban growth boundary (local fire department)

How can I file a complaint?

In person at the Sheriff's Office, Marion County Courthouse, 100 High St. NE, Salem; call us at (503) 373-4333; send email to enforcement@co.marion.or.us; or send mail to Code Enforcement at PO Box 14500, Salem

OR 97309. You can print out a complaint form from our website: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/SO/Operations/CodeEnforcement/>

Are complainants required to identify themselves? No. However, anonymous complaints may be given a lower priority as they may not be as reliable as those made by citizens willing to identify themselves. Also, citizens providing their name and address or phone number will be informed of the enforcement investigation. Complainant information is kept strictly confidential.

What is the enforcement process?

Enforcement cases vary greatly, necessitating flexibility in how complaints are processed, particularly those involving significant threat to public health and safety. The following is a general guideline:

- Step 1: Complaint received and prioritized.
- Step 2: Information gathered on jurisdiction, zoning, permits, property ownership, etc.
- Step 3: Site visit to verify violation.
- Step 4: Notice of Violation sent to property owner and other responsible persons.
- Step 5: Follow-up. If corrections are not made a citation may be issued. If corrections are made, case is closed. Time extensions may be allowed if circumstances warrant.
- Step 6: Voluntary compliance is encouraged by providing opportunity to comply with little or no penalty. When voluntary compliance is not obtained a citation may be issued.
- Step 7: If a citation is issued, a date for arraignment with Marion County Justice Court is set.

“One person’s junk is another person’s treasures.” What is the definition of junk?

Generally, “junk” includes garbage, rubbish, waste paper, demolition or construction waste, abandoned vehicles or parts, discarded appliances, vegetable or animal wastes, etc. “Waste” is defined as useless or discarded material. “Inoperable vehicle” is a vehicle left on private property for more than 30 days; has broken or missing windows, windshield, wheels, tires or lacks an engine or won’t run; has a market value less than \$300; and is not licensed.

What are some Marion County agencies typically involved in County enforcement?

Planning Division [(503) 588-5038] handles zoning, home-based businesses; trailers and non-residential buildings as residences, etc. Building Inspection [(503) 588-5147] issues permits for septic systems, electrical, plumbing and mechanical work. Land Development Engineering & Permits [(503) 584-7714] issues driveway and access permits. Health Department [(503) 588-5346] issues food-handler permits, conducts restaurant inspections and handles rodent control issues. Sheriff’s Office [(503) 588-5032] responds to abandoned vehicles on a street and disturbing the peace complaints. Dog Control [(503) 588-5366] handles kennel operations and dogs running loose or excessive barking.

What if I live in the County but a violation next door or across the street is in the City of Salem? As noted above, Marion County Code Enforcement takes complaints only regarding property outside any city limits. For questions or to file a complaint on property inside one of the cities in the County, please contact that city directly. For property inside

Salem, contact one of the following City of Salem agencies: Salem Compliance Services: [(503) 588-6421] handles tall grass/weeds, zoning issues, graffiti, accumulation of junk, dangerous buildings, etc. Salem Police: [(503) 588-6123] takes calls on general disturbing the peace. Parking Services: [(503) 588-6133] contact for abandoned vehicles and other on-street violations. City of Keizer Code Enforcement: (503) 856-3438.

What community resources are available if I’m under enforcement or have a neighbor that needs assistance?

State of Oregon Landlord Tenant Consumer Protection: [(503) 378-4320] consumer and business rights and consumer-related enforcement actions. Marion-Polk Legal Aid: [(503) 581-5265 or 1-800-359-1845] provides legal advice and representation to low-income citizens. Northwest Senior and Disability Services: [(503) 304-34000] coordinates service for seniors and people with disabilities to determine needs and eligibility including family caregiver support and long-term care services. Neighbor-to-Neighbor: [(503) 585-0651] free and voluntary mediation for people in conflict with help of a neutral third party. Issues covered include animals, noise, and landlord/tenant. Marion County Housing Authority [(503) 373-4448] assists with low-income housing needs.

What resources are available to help me clean up my property?

Garbage Haulers: Contact Recycle Hotline at (503) 390-4000 for garbage service in your area. Garbage haulers also provide estimates to remove old furniture, tires, etc.

Recycling and Disposal Sites: All sites accept cardboard, newspaper, magazines, glass, tin cans, and plastic bottles. For a complete list of locations contact Marion County Environmental Services, (503) 588-5169, or <http://publicworks.co.marion.or.us/es/>

North Marion Recycle Station: (503) 981-4117; 17827 Whitney Lane NE, Woodburn. Also accepts scrap metal, used motor oil, consumer batteries. Tires, yard waste and appliances recycled for a fee.

Brown’s Island Landfill: 2895 Faragate St. S, Salem; (503) 588-5169. Also accepts ashes, asphalt, sheetrock, tile, vinyl flooring, sod, timbers, sand, plastic pipe, plaster, brick, etc.

Salem-Keizer Transfer Station: (503) 362-8358; 3250 Deer Park Dr. SE, Salem. Also accepts **hazardous waste disposal** for antifreeze, fuels, paint thinner, weed killer, etc.

Marion County’s “Paint Back Program” provides free recycled household latex paint. Contact Environmental Services at (503) 588-5169 for more information.

For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.co.marion.or.us/SO/Operations/CodeEnforcement/>

