



# Living in Edmonton

**Edmonton**

[edmonton.ca/bylaws](http://edmonton.ca/bylaws)

# KNOW THE COMMUNITY STANDARDS FOR LIVING IN EDMONTON.

Community standards are rules of conduct shaped by the City of Edmonton and approved by City Council. These rules are created to help ensure the health and safety of citizens, to keep the city clean, to protect the environment and to set standards for acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour and activities of citizens, residents and visitors.

This guide describes the essential conduct and maintenance required of private property owners and outlines other common bylaws within the city.

**TIP**

**Look for quick tips to provide you with extra information.**



**KEEP YOUR HOUSE  
AND STRUCTURES  
IN GOOD CONDITION  
AND FREE  
OF GRAFFITI.**

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## **BUILDING AND STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE**

Prevent buildings on your property from becoming a nuisance. Repair damage such as rot, peeling paint and other wear and tear.

Stop water from seeping into buildings due to peeling, unpainted/untreated surfaces, damaged roofs, windows, doors and walls.

## UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS

Ensure unoccupied buildings are maintained so they don't become derelict.

Secure windows and doors using solid pieces of treated wood. Apply these from the exterior to keep the building waterproofed and prevent unauthorized entry.

Clean snow and ice from every walk and driveway on or beside the property.

## GRAFFITI

Graffiti is vandalism and a criminal offence when placed on public or private property without the owner's consent.

Report any graffiti that is visible from surrounding property to 311. Call 911 if you see graffiti crime in progress.

## GRAFFITI REMOVAL

Keep the exterior of your business clear of graffiti. Tidy walls have a positive effect on your property value and business sales.

### TIP

**The “3Rs” of graffiti management are record, report and remove. Learn about the City’s Graffiti Removal Program at [edmonton.ca/graffiti](http://edmonton.ca/graffiti).**



**KEEP YOUR  
PROPERTY  
CLEAN  
AND TIDY.**

**Edmonton**

## **UNTIDY AND UNSIGHTLY PROPERTY**

Messy yards can decrease property values and make a neighbourhood feel unsafe. To keep your home looking its best, make sure your yard is clear of vehicle parts, building materials, furniture and other debris.

## OLD APPLIANCES

Dispose of old appliances such as refrigerators and freezers at Eco Stations.

Remove doors, handles and locks on appliances left outside for removal to ensure nothing gets trapped inside.

### TIP

**Big Bin Events are held on weekends from May to September throughout the city. Residents can dispose of large, bulky items for free. Visit [edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup](http://edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup) for event dates, times and locations.**

## UNUSED VEHICLES

Dispose of damaged, dismantled or derelict vehicles through auto-wrecking yards, or consider donating your old vehicles to a charitable organization.

### TIP

**Charities usually offer free towing or removal and you even get a tax receipt!**

## GARBAGE COLLECTION

Take the trash out the evening before your scheduled garbage day. Make sure it is well-secured and that the pick-up area is tidy and safe.

Remove containers promptly after garbage collection to reduce litter and eliminate attractants for pets and wildlife.

### TIP

**For the safety of our garbage collectors, ensure garbage bags/bins are lighter than 20 kg (44 lbs). You should be able to carry each bag or can with one hand.**



## MAINTAIN YOUR YARD AND BOULEVARD.

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### GRASS CUTTING

Keep the grass in your yard, back lane and on your boulevard shorter than 10 cm. This keeps your property – and your neighbourhood – looking neat and tidy.

#### TIP

**Practice grasscycling by simply leaving the clippings on the lawn while mowing your grass. As the clippings decompose, they provide water and nutrients to your lawn. Grasscycling is a great time saver and reduces waste.**

## COMPOST AND ORGANICS

Remove smelly and messy compost heaps – as well as fallen fruit and bird seed – from your yard. Mismanaged compost and other organic materials can attract coyotes and other animals. You can also prevent unwanted wildlife by always feeding your pets indoors.

### TIP

**Learn the principles of composting and how to use compost in your yard or garden through the Master Composter Recycler Program. Visit [edmonton.ca/mcrp](http://edmonton.ca/mcrp).**

## WEED CONTROL

Noxious weeds and plants can destroy entire ecosystems and impact natural animal habitats and biodiversity.

The City of Edmonton has jurisdiction to enforce *The Alberta Weed Control Act* on private property. This act requires home owners to control noxious weeds and plants on their property.

Remove, spray or cut down noxious weeds in your yard and back lane, as well as on the adjoining boulevard, before they go to seed.

Learn more about weed identification and proper control methods at

**[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/weed-act](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/weed-act)**

### TIP

**Grow a healthy lawn to choke out nuisance weeds such as dandelions. Spot-treat or pull by hand to help reduce herbicide use at home.**

## BOULEVARD CARE

Cut grass and weeds to a reasonable length and remove fallen leaves, litter and debris from the boulevard near your property.

Residents are responsible to care for their property, boulevard and any part of their lot along the alley.





# MAINTAIN YOUR TREES.

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## DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Dutch elm disease (DED) is a deadly tree fungus that is destroying millions of elm trees. Edmonton has one of the largest populations of uninfected elms in North America.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call **311** or email **[citytrees@edmonton.ca](mailto:citytrees@edmonton.ca)** to report any damaged public or private elm trees in your neighbourhood.

Watch for DED symptoms in summer:

- drooping yellow leaves
- branches with leaves smaller than those on the rest of the tree
- no leaves or brown, wilted leaves that remain on the tree after autumn

Keep elm trees free of wood that is dead or dying. Please note that it is illegal to prune elms between April 1 and September 30. (Community Standards Bylaw #14600)

Remove elm stumps to a depth of at least 10 cm below the soil surface.

Stop the transportation, storage, use or sale of elm wood.

Dispose of elm wood only at authorized sites in Edmonton.

## FREE ELM WOOD RECYCLING SITES

**Northwest:** Coronation Eco Station  
11440-143 Street

**Northeast:** Kennedale Eco Station  
5355-127 Avenue

**Southwest:** Ambleside Eco Station  
14710 Ellerslie Road SW

**South Central:** Strathcona Eco Station  
5150-99 Street (enter on 99 Street only)

## TREES

Prune trees and shrubs around your property so they do not hang over, or block the sidewalks, alleyways and roads.

Call the City at **311** to remove, prune or repair trees on the boulevard. (Boulevard Tree Bylaw #7829)

### TIP

**The City prunes elms every four years. All other trees, depending on size and maturity, are pruned every seven years. Broken branches and tree defects are corrected as they are reported to 311 or [citytrees@edmonton.ca](mailto:citytrees@edmonton.ca).**



## MAINTAIN YOUR SIDEWALKS.

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### SNOW REMOVAL

Clear snow and ice from all sidewalks beside your property. Apply sand until sidewalks are safe.

Bus pads are cleared by the City. Property owners must clear snow from the adjacent sidewalks.

Clear your sidewalks promptly after a snowfall. Failure to remove snow could result in a \$100 fine and cleanup costs.

Call **311** to report a sidewalk that isn't being maintained.

## BE A SNOW ANGEL

Your neighbourhood needs you! Shovelling snow can be difficult, especially for those with limited mobility and certain health conditions. This winter, shovel snow for a neighbour who needs help.

Visit **[edmonton.ca/snowangels](http://edmonton.ca/snowangels)** for more information.

## SEASONAL PARKING BAN

A seasonal parking ban on designated bus routes will be in effect when there is a significant snowfall that requires the plowing of major roadways.

A minimum of eight hours notice will be given. Following the notification period, vehicles cannot be parked where the seasonal parking ban signage is in place.

The parking ban remains in effect until notification is sent out by the City.

Vehicles parking on bus routes with seasonal parking ban signs before the ban has ended may be tagged and/or towed.



# KNOW THE RULES ABOUT PARKING YOUR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.

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## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

A recreational vehicle (RV) is any:

- motorhome
- travel trailer
- fifth wheel trailer
- camper not mounted on a truck
- other vehicle that is equipped for sleeping

Unattached trailers (eg. tent, fifth wheel, boat, utility) must not be parked or stored on city streets or city property (boulevards, green belts, road right-of-ways etc.)

RVs cannot be occupied as temporary dwellings on public or private property.

Between April 1 and October 31, an RV may be parked on the front driveway or parking pad only if there is no rear parking.

For complete information on RV parking, visit **[edmonton.ca/bylaws](http://edmonton.ca/bylaws)**.



**BE MINDFUL  
OF NOISE  
LEVELS.**

**Edmonton**

## **NOISE**

Residents are entitled to the quiet enjoyment of their property. Noise that is reasonably likely to disturb the peace or interrupt the quality of life of your neighbours may be in violation of the bylaw.

Be considerate of how long you make noise and limit the use of loud equipment – such as lawn mowers, snow blowers and chainsaws – to less than two hours.

### **TIP**

**Noise pollution from gas mowers is a real problem – as any late sleeper can attest. Switching to an electric mower will ease the stress on your ears and your neighbours’.**

## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Construction noise is only allowed

- between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.  
Monday–Saturday
- between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
on Sundays and holidays

Construction projects must be completed within five years of the date of permit, or the start of construction.



**To register a noise complaint,  
call 311.**





**MAINTAIN  
A VALID  
BUSINESS  
LICENCE.**

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## **BUSINESS LICENSING**

Local businesses are an essential part of Edmonton's economy. The City recognizes the importance of businesses and encourages good business practices by requiring all business owners that provide goods and services to have a valid business licence. (Business Licence Bylaw #13138)

## TIP

**A business licence is a good investment. Not only does it show your customers your business is legitimate, it also demonstrates that you are responsible enough to comply with local laws.**

## LICENSING CATEGORIES AND REGULATIONS

In Edmonton, businesses are sorted into categories based on the products or services they offer. Different fees and regulations apply to each category. At present, the fine for operating without a valid business licence is \$450, or twice the business licence fee, whichever is greater.

Licensing is how the City verifies businesses are based in the right zone, so commercial activities are not disruptive to residential neighbourhoods and are compatible with designated land-use plans. Complying with licence requirements ensures all Edmontonians have a safe place to live, work and play.

For more information on licensing, to apply for a business licence or to report an unlicensed business, visit **edmonton.ca** or call **311**.



## GET INVOLVED IN A CAPITAL CITY CLEAN UP PROGRAM.

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### **ADOPT-A-BLOCK**

Edmonton residents, businesses and community groups are encouraged to adopt a block in their community or business area and keep it litter-free during the spring and summer months.

As an Adopt-a-Block volunteer, you can adopt the block surrounding your home or business, or any block of space in your community, such as a schoolyard or a neighbourhood park.

## 15-TO-CLEAN

Want to make a positive difference in your community? Challenge your family, friends, co-workers, classmates or others to see how much litter can be picked up in 15 minutes. All of our efforts help create a clean, safe and livable city.

### TIP

**It's easy! Simply grab a bag and a glove from home and you're ready to go. Free 15-to-Clean packages are available at Capital City Clean Up (2nd floor, 10835-120 Street). Email staff in advance to let them know you're stopping by ([capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca](mailto:capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca)).**

## BUSINESS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

Capital City Clean Up's Business Supporting Community initiative offers Edmonton-area companies a unique opportunity to fight litter, while supporting local non-profit groups. Participating businesses pay organizations for litter clean up as a unique fundraising opportunity. Schools and non-profit groups can provide an enthusiastic volunteer force.

From May to August, these groups are paid a weekly rate to clean up litter around a one-block area of the company's site. Businesses may also choose to have the group clean up another area, such as a playground, seniors' residence or neighbourhood park.

### TIP

**You can adopt a block, visit a Big Bin Event, support a non-profit group or explore our many other programs at [edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup](http://edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup).**



# REDUCE ILLEGAL DUMPING.

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## ILLEGAL DUMPING

It is illegal to deliberately dump waste on public or private property without consent. Even though it has been illegally placed there by someone else, the property owner or occupant is responsible for the timely removal of dumped items. (Community Standards Bylaw #14600)

## HOW CAN YOU HELP REDUCE ILLEGAL DUMPING?

Immediately remove the nuisance items from your property. This will decrease the chance that more items will be dumped in the same location.

Educate your tenants on what items are acceptable to place in the common garbage area and which items should be recycled or taken to an Eco Station.

Place 'no dumping' signs, surveillance cameras and adequate lighting around the property.

Install fences, barriers or locked compounds around waste bins.

Take pride in your property. A property that is cared for is less likely to be targeted.

## REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Call **311** to file a report. A 311 agent will take your information and create a file for a Community Standards Peace Officer to investigate.



**When reporting illegal dumping, be sure to include notes such as:**

- **date and time**
- **specific address**
- **detailed description of the individual(s), if available**
- **description of the vehicle (licence plate, company names/logos, etc.), if available**
- **description of items illegally dumped**



**BE A  
RESPONSIBLE  
PET OWNER.**

**Edmonton**

## **LICENSE YOUR PET**

In Edmonton, dogs and cats six months and older must have an up-to-date licence. This ensures the City can reach you if your pet is found. A licence provides your pet with one free ride home each year and free emergency veterinary care if it is found injured.

Licences are affordable and can be obtained and renewed by mail, in person or at **[eservices.edmonton.ca](https://eservices.edmonton.ca)**.

Licence fees pay for food, shelter, medical care and enrichment for approximately 6,000 lost and stray animals each year at the City's Animal Care & Control Centre. Fees also support responsible pet ownership education and enforcement.

## SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET

Fixing your pet reduces the city's feral animal populations and helps your pet stay happy and healthy. Spaying or neutering also curbs the animal's urge to roam, inhibits aggression and saves you money through lower pet licence fees.

## USE A LEASH

Your pets are safest at the end of a leash. While on public property, your pet must be kept on a leash no longer than two metres. Prevent your pet from roaming out of the yard by securing your property with a fence.



**Dogs are prohibited at all times from school grounds, sport fields, playgrounds and golf courses. Enjoy the benefits of walking your dog at one of Edmonton's 40 off-leash parks!**

## CONTROL BARKING

Responsible pet owners resolve barking concerns quickly. Dogs bark when they are bored, lonely and when they want to alert their owners. Provide training, exercise and attention to ensure your dog is being a good neighbour.

## SCOOP THE POOP

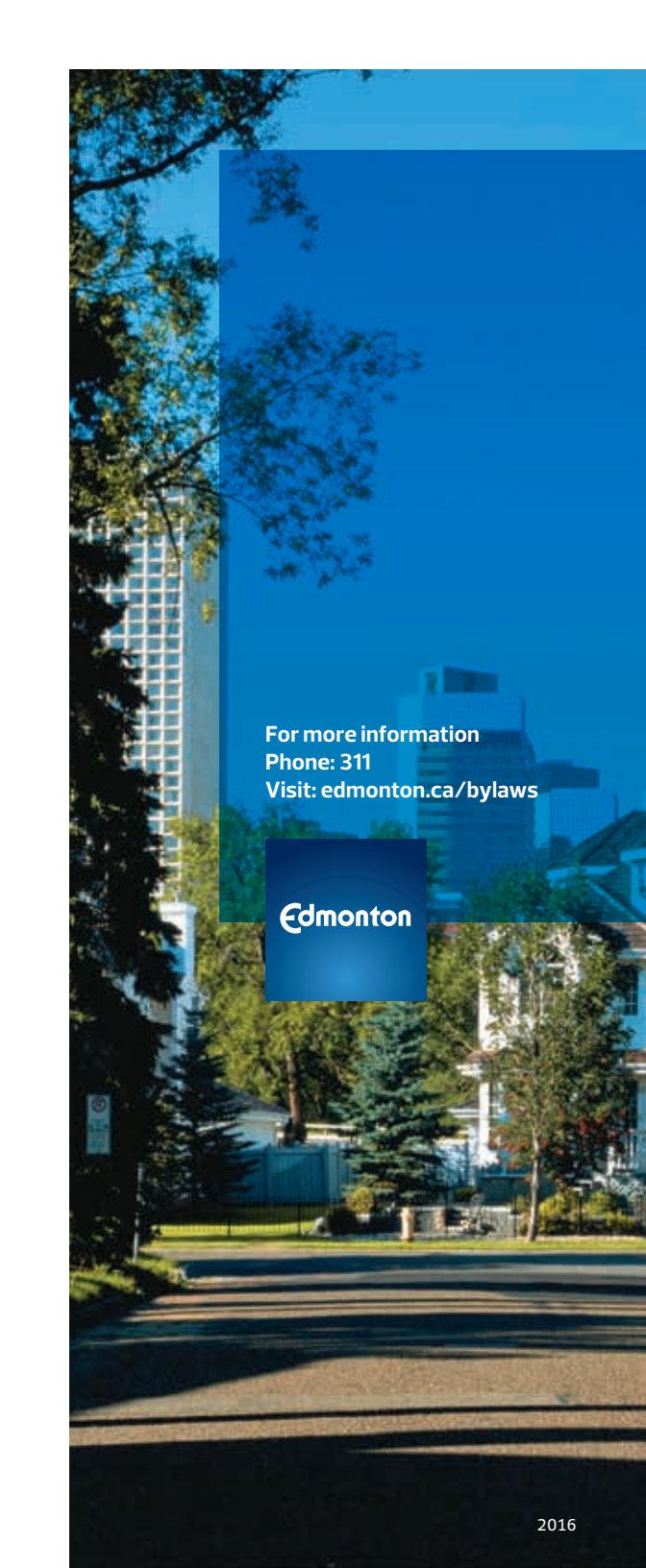
Animal feces is smelly and can be a health hazard. It can also attract unwelcome wildlife, such as coyotes, into your yard.



**Always carry bags with you on walks so you can pick up and dispose of your pet's waste. The fine for not picking up and excessive defecation on private property is \$100.**

For more information on responsible pet ownership, visit **[edmonton.ca/pets](http://edmonton.ca/pets)**.



A photograph of an Edmonton street scene. In the foreground, a paved road with white lane markings leads towards a grassy area and trees. In the background, several buildings are visible, including a tall, white, grid-patterned skyscraper (the Scotiabank Tower) and other modern office buildings. The sky is clear blue. A semi-transparent blue rectangular overlay covers the upper right portion of the image, containing white text and the Edmonton logo.

**For more information**  
**Phone: 311**  
**Visit: [edmonton.ca/bylaws](http://edmonton.ca/bylaws)**

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