Dealing with Vehicle Problems in Your Neighborhood

Q. I have no idea who owns the nuisance vehicle on my property. What do I do now?
A. Contact the inspector listed on the notice and arrange to sign papers that will result in it being towed away at no expense to you.

Q. Can I park my own tow truck outside on a residential property?
A. No. Tow trucks are never permitted outside.

Q. How many vehicles can I park on my property?
A. There can be no more than four vehicles parked outside at a single or 2-family residence. Only one in that four can be a recreational vehicle. That count includes trailers, boats, motor-homes, etc.

Q. What about other vehicles?
A. Motorcycles, boats, trailers, mobile homes, must be properly stored and cannot exceed a combined number of four. Motor-homes cannot be longer that 22 ft. Only one Commercial vehicle is allowed, excluding tow trucks.

Q. What is an approved surface?
A. Depending on the year the property was built a proper surface can consist of crush gravel, asphalt or concrete.

Q. My car is a collector car and in good condition. Do I need a license plate?
A. Yes. All outside stored vehicles must display plates with current sticker for that car.

Q. What if I ignore the order?
A. Several possibilities exist. If the vehicle can be towed away, it will be towed. If the tow truck cannot reach the vehicle, the property will be periodically reinspected for compliance. Reinspection fees ($50/75/150/300) will be assessed to the property tax bill. Citations may also be issued to the property owner. If the City has to tow the vehicle, it won’t be cheap! The average tow bill is about $226.

Q. Can I repair my car at my house?
A. Yes, if you own it, repair only one at a time, and the repair is done in-doors. No parking or storing on the street is allowed.

OTHER DNS ASSISTANCE
Call 286-2268 if you need the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) to assist with the following:

- Graffiti removal
- Buildings or apartments in poor condition that need maintenance
- Animals that bite, constantly make too much noise, run loose or create litter problems
- Litter, tires, junk cars or junk that need to be removed from occupied or vacant lots
- Rats, mice or cockroaches that are a problem at a specific property or area of the neighborhood

The Department of Public Works can assist with other neighborhood needs. Call 286-8282 for the following:

- Tall grass and weeds more than 9” high.
- Special Pickup requests (furniture, appliances, large items.)
- Vehicles abandoned on your property without your consent. (Call the TOWDESK 286-8350)

CITY WEB PAGE
www.milwaukee.gov

produced by the
Department of Neighborhood Services
841 N. Broadway Rm 104
Milwaukee WI 53202
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City of Milwaukee
Department of Neighborhood Services

DNS-14 V3.2 TNW 11/07/03 Nuisance Vehicles
I've got an order...Now what?
If you received a nuisance vehicle order, DO NOT DELAY...CALL TODAY! The name and phone number of the inspector is on the order. Call for additional information immediately!

Frequently Asked Questions:
Q. If the City tows a vehicle off of private property under this nuisance vehicle procedure, can I get it back?
A. No. It is towed directly to a shredder where it is recycled.

Q. Why doesn’t DNS ticket the car rather than order the property owner to remove it?
A. Current State Law does not permit that option to DNS. We are seeking that authority.

Q. I filed a complaint about a nuisance vehicle in my neighborhood. On average, how long should it take to get it removed?
A. If the vehicle owner fails to respond to the order and DNS has to tow it, it takes 15-30 days before the City tow truck can remove it.

Q. Why does it take 15-30 days?
A. Due process of the law requires written notice to the vehicle owner and also to the property owner, an opportunity to comply and an opportunity to appeal. The City uses the same towing contractors to remove abandoned vehicles from city streets so minor backlogs can occur at peak periods.

Q. How can I tell if DNS is working on my complaint?
A. Go the City of Milwaukee home page at www.milwaukee.gov. Then click on the icon for PROPERTY DATA. Follow the instructions and enter the address. All the real estate ownership, violations, complaints and permits for that address will appear. Click on any item with a (View) label to drill down for more information.

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