

# CHESTERFIELD COUNTY VIRGINIA

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Code Compliance Office  
804-748-1500**

**Deteriorated Structures: 748-1779**

**Drainage Ditches: 748-1035**

**Items in the Street: 800-367-7623**

**Department of Community  
Enhancement: 717-6001**

**[chesterfield.gov/enhancement](http://chesterfield.gov/enhancement)**

### **Chesterfield County Vision**

Our vision is to be the recognized leader in government, the standard by which others measure their progress and success. Every employee has a personal devotion to excellence in public service and embraces the highest standards of ethics and integrity. Every resident takes pride in knowing that the county provides the finest quality of life available in any American community.



## How **Code Compliance**

**Can Contribute to  
Clean, Attractive and Safe  
Neighborhoods**

*Department of  
Community Enhancement*



*Funding provided by  
Community Development Block Grant.*



*Providing a FIRST CHOICE community  
through excellence in public service*

## Code Compliance can improve neighborhoods

**Does the appearance of your neighborhood concern you?**

**Would you like your community to be a clean, attractive and safe place in which to live and work?**

**If so, you need to know about code compliance.**



Chesterfield County zoning ordinances and codes describe where, when, how and what activities may be conducted on property in various zoning districts. The Code Compliance Office ensures code regulations are followed to protect all property owners. Zoning and code compliance help

promote the health, safety and general welfare of Chesterfield County residents by designating the types of buildings, businesses and activities that are acceptable in specific zoning districts. For example, residential neighborhoods are zoned for housing, not for junkyards or waste transfer stations. Junkyards and transfer stations are permitted in specific zones. Zoning permits various uses and activities so that they do not adversely affect one another.

Some of the most common violations found in the county involve:

- dogs,
- fences,
- unlicensed or inoperable vehicles,
- recreational vehicles and equipment,
- trucks parked in residential areas,
- discarded materials,
- building setbacks,
- illegal home occupations,
- signs,
- grass and weeds,
- stock farm animals.

Code Compliance requires the assistance of county residents, to comply with zoning and other code regulations and to report violations.

The information that residents provide is kept confidential. It is excluded from the Freedom of Information Act, and it is county policy not to reveal the identity of a complainant. Complaints may be lodged by phone weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at 748-1500. Complaints also may be submitted online on the Chesterfield County website at [chesterfield.gov/enhancement](http://chesterfield.gov/enhancement).

### **Dogs**

You may have three adult dogs over four months old. There is no limit to the number of adult dogs that can be kept on agriculturally zoned property. All dogs over four months old are required to be licensed. Contact Animal Control at 748-1683 for information. Keeping more than three adult dogs on residentially zoned properties requires a special exception from the Board of Zoning Appeals. For more information contact, the Planning Department.



### **Fences**

Fences may be only four feet tall in the front, but may be as tall as seven feet in the rear and side yards on a residential lot. There are exceptions for corner lots.

### **Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles**

You may park one inoperable vehicle that is not in an enclosed building on residential property. Inoperable vehicles must be covered and shielded from view, according to section 13-62 of the code, and placed in the rear yard. You also may strip one vehicle for parts for the other vehicle that is being restored. All other vehicles must be operable and have license plates that are current and current inspection decals.

### **Recreational vehicles and equipment**

Only two pieces of recreational equipment, including boats, may be parked on a residential lot outside of an enclosed building, and must be in the rear yard. For more information regarding the parking of recreational equipment, contact the Planning Department.

### **Tractor-trailer trucks**

Trucks or other commercial vehicles in excess of 10,000 pounds or having more than two axles, or which tow or haul disabled, wrecked or junk vehicles, may not be parked on residential property without a conditional-use permit from the Board of Supervisors.

### **Broken lawn mowers or junk cars**

Scrap metals or other scrap material; used or scrap building, plumbing, electrical or heating material; discarded household appliances, furnishings and fixtures; dismantled or demolished motor vehicles; or other machinery or parts of any of the above may not be stored in residential areas. These items are permitted only on property zoned for junkyards or inside garages or storage buildings. County residents and property owners are responsible for the removal of discarded material, household waste and trash from their property. There is no free trash pick up or service. Check the Internet or consult your local telephone directory for a listing of private contractors.

### **Storage sheds**

In residential and commercial districts, there are several requirements that determine the placement of buildings and storage sheds. These restrictions are specific to the zoning of the property and may vary by subdivision. Before building garages, storage sheds, etc., contact the Planning Department to obtain the setback requirements for your property. For more information regarding building permits, contact Building Inspections at 748-1057.

### Home businesses

Home businesses must comply with restrictions adopted to maintain the residential quality of your neighborhood.

There are restrictions on how you may conduct your business. As a general rule, there should be nothing outside the home that indicates that a business is being operated there. Contact the Planning Department to learn what you may or may not do before you begin operating a home business. It is important to remember that you must obtain a business license and that there are other rules you must follow to run a home business.

### Small, temporary signs

Small, temporary signs are allowed, but only for specific purposes and there are restrictions. For example, signs may not be affixed to utility poles or traffic-control signs or placed in the right of way. The only time you may place a sign on a tree is when that property is experiencing land-disturbing activities. Signs for yard sales may not be larger than four square feet and are limited to one sign on the property and one sign directing the way to the sale.

Yard sales are limited to no more than four sales per calendar year and not more than two within a 30-day period. These sales cannot last more than two days. Item for sale are limited to the personal property and usual household items of the seller, who must own or rent the property.

There are rules concerning real estate signs, political signs and banners as well. For more information about signs visit [chesterfield.gov/plan](http://chesterfield.gov/plan).

### Grass

Grass taller than 12 inches at an occupied dwelling, or 18 inches at an unoccupied dwelling, is a violation of the weed ordinance. Keep your grass cut and shrubs trimmed. This will make your neighborhood attractive and, potentially, your property more valuable.

### Chickens, ducks or rabbits

You may not keep stock farm animals on residentially zoned property without a conditional-use permit from the Board of Supervisors. Stock farm animals include cows, sheep, goats, horses, fowl, rabbits, small domesticated livestock and other farm animals. These animals are allowed on agriculturally zoned property with some restrictions. A maximum of six chicken hens may be kept on a residentially zoned property with restrictions. Contact the Planning Department for specifics.



### Summary

There are many misconceptions about codes and code violations. If you're uncertain about codes, code violations or code enforcement, ask questions before you act to save time, money and effort. If you observe a violation, you may contact the Code Compliance Office. Remember, you don't have to give your name, but if you do, it will be kept confidential.

Keeping zoning violations to a minimum helps to beautify and preserve neighborhoods and businesses throughout Chesterfield County. Do your part by keeping your property clean.