

# Junked Vehicle Fact Sheet

The city's junked vehicle program is designed to address three types of problem vehicles: 1) abandoned vehicles, 2) junked vehicles, and 3) nuisance vehicles. It is important to note that for the purposes of enforcement, a "vehicle" means any machine designed or intended to travel over land by self-propulsion or while attached to any self-propelled vehicle. This includes trailers, boats, and in some instances mobile homes.

In order for the city to declare a vehicle "abandoned," it must determine that the vehicle has been left on public property, including public streets, unlawfully or that it has been left on private property without the consent of the property owner. Any vehicle that is partially dismantled or wrecked, cannot move in the manner in which it was originally intended, or is more than 5 years old and valued at less than \$100 may be declared a "junked" motor vehicle. A "nuisance" vehicle is a vehicle that is determined and declared to be a health or safety hazard including vehicles found to be:



1. A breeding ground or harbor for mosquitoes, other insects, rats or other pests;
2. A point of heavy growth of weeds or other noxious vegetation over eight inches in height;
3. A point of collection of pools or ponds of water;
4. A point of concentration of quantities of gasoline, oil or other flammable or explosive materials as evidenced by odor;
5. Or have areas of confinement which cannot be operated from the inside, such as trunks, hoods, etc.
6. So situated or located that there is a danger of it falling or turning over;
7. A point of collection of garbage, food waste, animal waste, or any other rotten or putrescible matter of any kind; or
8. One which has sharp parts which are jagged or contain sharp edges of metal or glass.

The city's regulations do not apply to any vehicle located in a permitted junk yard, in an enclosed building, on the premises of a business enterprise being operated in a lawful place and manner if the vehicle is necessary to the operation of the enterprise, or any vehicle located in an appropriate storage place as permitted by the city. One "junked" vehicle may also be located in the rear yard of residential property when the vehicle is entirely concealed from public view and abutting properties.

The city code requires staff to give notice to the owners of junked vehicles prior to having such vehicles removed. The time period for compliance varies depending on the particulars of the case, the incidence of appeals, and the availability of contract tow trucks. In all cases, removal of vehicles on private property cannot occur until after a minimum seven day notice period.

**For more information or to report a violation, please contact:**

**City of Shelby Code Enforcement Officer  
City Hall Annex, 315 South Lafayette St.  
704-484-6829**