

Common code violations include:

- Inoperable vehicles and those lacking current tags.
- Vehicles parked on front yards or on public rights-of-way.
- Vehicles over 7,500 pounds not parked in a completely enclosed garage within a residential area.
- Recreational vehicles parked between a public street and living area.
- A watercraft or accompanying trailer parked within 15-feet of the edge of the street pavement.
- Accumulation of debris, rubbish or trash on any property within the City.
- Trash containers not hidden from public view on a non-collection day.
- Grass, weeds and undergrowth over twelve (12) inches in height.
- Keeping or maintaining animals or fowl classified as domestic or wild unless the area is zoned for agricultural purposes.
- Street address numbers that are not located on the front of the structure, not visible from the street or less than three inches in height.
- Unpermitted construction.
- Operating a business without a City of Winter Haven business tax receipt.
- Signs placed on rights-of-way and utility poles

A full listing of the City of Winter Haven codes can be accessed by visiting www.mywinterhaven.com and clicking on the Municipal Code link.

Useful Numbers:

Building Division
863-291-5695

The City requires a building permit for the construction of any new building or the alteration of any existing building, including signage.

Business Tax (Previously known as Occupational Licenses)
863-291-5695

Any person interested in engaging or managing a business, profession or occupation in the City must pay a City of Winter Haven Business Tax.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections
863-291-5677

The City of Winter Haven requires all facilities conducting commercial activities and all multi-family residential occupancies be inspected by State Certified Municipal Fire Inspectors to locate and eliminate potentially dangerous fire and/or life safety hazards. This division will also respond to complaints of potentially life-threatening situations.

Non-Emergency Police Assistance
863-291-5858

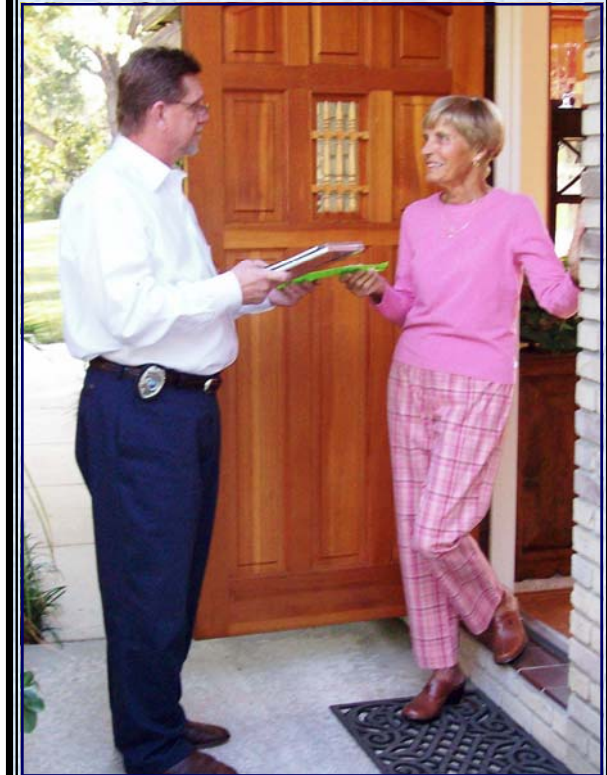
Emergency Assistance — 911
If you are in a situation that warrants an emergency response by the Fire Department, Police Department or ambulance, dial 911.

WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City

Code Enforcement Unit
P.O. Box 2277, Winter Haven, FL 33883-2277
209 Avenue F NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881
Phone: 863-291-5697 ♦ Fax: 863-298-4495
e-mail: code@mywinterhaven.com

WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City

Code Enforcement



www.mywinterhaven.com

Building, land use and zoning codes help make our community a safe place to live, work and play.

It is the mission of the Code Enforcement Unit to work in partnership with the residents of Winter Haven to promote and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment. We help maintain or improve the quality of this community in three ways:

- ◆ We **administer** a fair and unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of municipal codes and land use requirements.
- ◆ We **work** with residents, neighborhood associations, public service agencies and other City departments to:
 1. Empower community self-help programs.
 2. Develop public outreach programs.
 3. Establish community priorities for the enforcement program.
- ◆ We **initiate** special programs targeted toward specific problems in the community.

Why do we have Code Enforcement?

Without code enforcement, City codes would be, to a great extent, disregarded. Our neighborhoods would have no parameters within which to live and



remain orderly. All residents should have the expectation of clean and safe neighborhoods. Residents have the right to peaceful co-existence and if there is a defiance of the code in their community, they should have the assurance it will be dealt with until the violation is corrected.

How is a complaint filed?

Complaints can be filed by calling the Code Enforcement Unit at 291-5697 or by e-mailing code@mywinterhaven.com. Complaints can be made anonymously, however, a proper address and a description of the violation is required.

Code Officers spend most of their day in the field conducting inspections and meeting with residents. Appointments can be made to meet with

an officer in the office or in the field. Officers can be contacted by phone or E-mail.

How does the process work?

The City of Winter Haven Code Enforcement Unit processes more than 2,000 cases each year and is both proactive and reactive. Officers go into the community and look for violations as well as respond to complaints from City residents. Officers are in the field daily working with property owners to correct code violations and achieve code compliance.

Public contact is important and, therefore, code officers knock on doors and provide courtesy door hangers before a notice of violation is issued. If the violation is not corrected within the given time frame, a notice is sent to the property owner by certified mail. If the property continues to remain in violation it is processed through a Code Enforcement Special Magistrate hearing. The Special Magistrate may fine up to \$250 a day per violation for the first offense and up to \$500 a day for repeat offenses. Unpaid fines are recorded as liens.

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