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# Homeowner and Community Code Enforcement

Code compliance  
is required by law!

County Code requirements were established by the Prince George's County Council and designate what is allowed, what is not and the actions DPIE and other agencies are empowered to take to address violations. DPIE conducts inspections and takes appropriate enforcement action to address violations and gain compliance.

## The Prince George's County Code:

- Protects the health and safety of the public
- Protects neighborhood aesthetics and property values
- Ensures durability and sustainability of structures
- Ensures uniformity and minimum standards

## REPORT PROPERTY MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS!

Call 311 (301-883-4748 outside the County) or file a report on the [PGC311.com](http://PGC311.com) website.

Once a complaint is received through PGC311, it is forwarded to the DPIE Enforcement Division and an inspection is conducted. If code violations are identified, inspectors may issue a Notice of Violation (NOV) and/or an Administrative or Civil Citation to the property owner or other responsible person.

- The NOV or citation references the code violation(s) and the time allotted to address the violation(s).
- A follow-up inspection is conducted after the allotted time. If the violation has not been abated, appropriate action will be taken, which may include the levying of fines and/or transferring the case to the Administrative Hearing Unit or court for adjudication.
- Abating a code violation is often not immediate. It can take weeks, or even months, for DPIE to gain compliance from property owners or managers who refuse or are slow to take the necessary steps to comply with the Code.
- Each incident creates a new case. If a property was in violation and the violation was abated, any new infraction would require a new complaint to PGC311, and the investigative process would start anew.

# Frequent Code Violations Handled by



For additional information,  
visit the DPIE website at <http://dpiе.mypgc.us>.

1. Operating a business out of a residence. You may not run a restaurant, prepare food for sale, sell goods, store imported products, etc. Some businesses may operate with a Use and Occupancy Permit (U&O), including a two-chair hair salon, barber shop and nail salon.
2. Operating a rental property without a license, including short-term, single-family or multifamily rentals or rooming houses.
3. Running an unlicensed day care, adult care or elder care facility.
4. Performing automotive work on a driveway, street or yard.
5. Doing unpermitted construction or allowing others to do construction without the appropriate permits and inspections on your property.
6. Accumulating trash, debris and open storage on your property, including old appliances, junk cars, unused construction materials, tires, broken furniture, etc.
7. Dumping unused household items, junk and debris in your yard, on private property, or in parking lots.
8. Parking inoperable or unregistered vehicles on private property. (The Revenue Authority investigates illegal and inoperable vehicles on residential roads and unregistered cars parked on the grass.)
9. Parking disallowed commercial vehicles on residential property.
10. Failing to cut grass and weeds, prune plants, pick up branches and clear debris regularly. Grass and weeds over 12-inches tall are a code violation!
11. Failing to repair peeling paint, loose siding, ragged gutters and downspouts, broken windows, sagging doors, etc.
12. Leaving abandoned properties unsafe and unsecured. The same code requirements apply to abandoned or unused properties as occupied structures. Upkeep is the owner's responsibility!
13. Raising livestock — chickens, roosters, pot-bellied pigs, some exotic pets, etc. — in a County residential zone. Only domestic pets are allowed. Check requirements in municipalities.
14. Street vending. You may not sell food, clothing, art or other items from your yard, on public sidewalks or roadsides. Public vending is allowed in some designated areas with a permit.
15. Failing to clear snow and ice within 48 hours after the end of a snow/ice incident. Property managers and homeowners of properties abutting public sidewalks are required to remove snow and ice.
16. Operating a business without a U&O. A U&O is required to operate any business in the County. Any change of use or change of ownership of a business requires a new U&O.
17. Playing music or making noise louder than 55 decibels after 11 p.m. and 65 decibels during the day. At 55 decibels, you *can't* hear music playing inside your home on the outside. If you can hear the sound outside, it is too loud, and you should turn the volume down immediately. There are free online apps that can help you measure decibels of sound.

**REPORT NOISE VIOLATIONS TO PGC311 OR COUNTY POLICE NONEMERGENCY AT 301-352-1200.**

Maximum Allowable Noise Levels (dBA) for Receiving Land Use Categories

Day/Night	Industrial	Commercial	Residential
Day	75	67	65
Night	75	62	55