



10-4

A weekly Q&A
with local
law enforcement

Submit your question to news@owatonna.com or 444-2379

Parking and storage of recreational vehicles within the City's residential districts

The City of Owatonna has found that when recreational vehicles are stored improperly, they can affect the health and safety, property values, and the reasonable use and enjoyment of neighboring properties. That is why the city council has regulations concerning the parking and storing of recreational vehicles.

Q: What is considered to be a recreational vehicle?

A: A recreational vehicle is any vehicle that is designed or used for any recreational purpose. In Owatonna, these include camper trailers, travel trailers, truck campers, motor-homes, boat trailers, and utility trailers.

Q: When and where can I park or store my recreational vehicle when I am not using it?

A: Recreational vehicles can be parked in your garage, backyard (as long as they are not within three feet of a property line), and on a surfaced parking space along the side of your house (as long as it is not within three feet of a property line.)

During the summer months, April 1 through Nov. 15, all recreational vehicles may be parked outside as long as they are parked on a surfaced portion of your driveway or yard. You may only park them outside if you are unable to park them in your garage. They must be parked perpendicular to the street and must be parked at least 15 feet back from the curb. Your recreational vehicle cannot be parked in a way so that it is blocking the view of traffic on your street.

During the winter months, Nov. 16 through March 30, most people do not use their recreational vehicles and look to store them in a safe place. During these months, your recreational vehicles can be temporarily parked on your driveway or a surfaced space next to your driveway for a time not exceeding 48 consecutive hours.

Q: How can I store my recreational vehicle during the winter on my property, if it can only be temporarily stored?

A: Well, not all recreational vehicles are subject to the above restrictions. In section 702:10 of the Owatonna City Code, it states that recreational vehicles that are 22 feet in length or less are not subject to any of the above restrictions. All recreational vehicles that are 22 feet to 40 feet in length are subject to the above restrictions. If your recreational vehicle is more than 40 feet, it cannot be stored within the city limits at all.

Q: When storing my recreational vehicle, do I need to keep it registered and in a clean/well-maintained condition?

A: Yes, all recreational vehicles must have a current license and registration and must be kept in a clean and operable condition.

Q: How many recreational vehicles can I store on my property?

A: No more than two recreational vehicles are allowed to be parked or stored on your property at one time. You are only allowed to have one recreational vehicle parked in your driveway or surfaced parking space off to the side of your driveway.

Q: Can I live in my recreational vehicle?

A: If your recreational vehicle is being parked or stored on your property you are not allowed to live in it. However, you can allow guests to sleep in your parked/stored recreational vehicle as long as they do not sleep in it for more than 72 consecutive hours.

Q: What if I have a recreational vehicle and cannot find a way to park it or store it so that I am not violating the city ordinance?

A: The city has set up a variance system which allows citizens to apply and file a petition regarding parking and storing recreational vehicles. In order to do this, you must pay a non-refundable fee and submit the petition to the Office of the City Administrator. Within thirty days after the City Administrator determines that the variance petition is complete, and all required fees and information have been received, a Review Board conducts a public hearing and makes its decision. If the applicant disagrees with the Board's decision, a written notice of appeal may be filed to the Council within ten days after the date of the decision.

MIKE SCHNEIDER

*Community Service Officer
Owatonna Police Department*