



Important Information about the Commercial Vehicle Ordinance

The City of Sarasota has enacted a new commercial vehicle ordinance that applies to vehicles parked in residential zones. **The first phase of this ordinance took effect on June 1st, 2003.** This page explains in general terms which vehicle types are affected by which phase of the new ordinance, and what you may need to do to keep your property in compliance with this ordinance and avoid Code Compliance fines.

Please call the City of Sarasota Code Compliance Inspector for your area at **941-954-4125** for more detailed information, or to ask for a determination of whether your vehicle fall under the ordinance.

PROHIBITED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, COMMERCIAL TRAILERS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

Effective June 1st, 2003, All vehicles over 7,200 pounds in vehicle weight are prohibited from parking in residential zones inside the City of Sarasota. Vehicles that are more than eight feet in height as measured from the ground to the highest point of the vehicle are also prohibited. Regardless of weight, semi-trucks and/or trailers are prohibited, as are dump trucks, bucket trucks, wreckers, tow trucks and trucks with stake beds. Construction equipment is also prohibited, including but not limited to front end loaders, bulldozers, bobcats or ditch diggers with sole exception of the construction equipment parked during the tenure of construction. Prohibited vehicles that are performing deliveries, construction work, etc., can be parked in residential zones only as long as the work is actively being performed. Overnight parking of such vehicles is always prohibited in residential zones.

VISIBLE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Effective January 1st, 2004, certain commercial vehicles parked in residential zones can be visible from abutting properties and rights-of-way, as long as they are not prohibited vehicles (as discussed above) and meet certain conditions. These vehicles must be parked on a paved, shell-covered or rock-covered area with perimeters or borders defined by landscaping. The vehicle cannot exceed 7200 pounds, and cannot be more than 6.5 feet in height or have racks that exceed 18 inches in height. The vehicle must be owned by the current resident of the property or unit at which it is parked and it cannot be parked on or over a sidewalk. If your vehicle has two or fewer signs of not more than four square feet per sign, you may cover the signage with magnetic (or similar) opaque blanks of a similar color to the



vehicle. If the signs are larger, the vehicle must be buffered (see below). Any vehicle that exceeds any of these limits cannot be visible from abutting properties when parked; it must be parked outside a residential zone or, if it meets certain requirements, it may be buffered as discussed below. Only one visible commercial vehicle is allowed per address.

BUFFERED COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Effective January 1st 2004, all commercial vehicles that are not prohibited (see above), but exceed the limits for a visible vehicle, must be buffered. An allowed vehicle may be parked on a side or rear yard that is buffered (screened) from all abutting properties by a 6.5 foot fence or wall or by an 80% opaque hedge. Vehicles may also be parked in a completely enclosed structure like a garage, or in a carport that is attached to the house (so that one wall of the house functions as one side of the carport) and where the carport does not extend beyond the front of the house. The vehicle must be owned or operated by the resident of the dwelling. The vehicle cannot be over eight feet in height (including tools and racks) or over 7,200 pounds in vehicle weight. Signage is allowed on buffered vehicles. You may only have one buffered vehicle or one buffered trailer (in addition to one visible commercial vehicle that meets the limits discussed above) at any address.

BUFFERED COMMERCIAL TRAILERS

Effective January 1st, 2004, commercial trailers over sixteen feet in length (from the front of the tongue to the rear-most part of the trailer), all trailers that have racks attached to the top, and those that are more than eight feet in height from the ground to the highest point on the trailer are prohibited in residential zones. All other commercial trailers must be buffered from abutting properties. A trailer may be parked in a side yard or rear yard that is buffered (screened) from all abutting properties by a 6.5-foot fence or wall, or by an 80% opaque hedge. Trailers may also be parked in a completely enclosed structure like a garage. Please note that carports do not constitute buffering for a trailer. If the trailer is over 6.5 feet in height from the ground to the highest point on the trailer, it must be a completely enclosed trailer or it must be stored in a completely enclosed structure. Signage is allowed on trailers as long as the signage is not visible from any abutting property. You may only have one buffered trailer or one buffered vehicle (in addition to one visible commercial vehicle that meets the limits discussed above) at any address.