

Chapter 8.24

LITTER AND REFUSE GENERALLY

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8.24.010 Definitions.

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used in this chapter shall be as follows:

"Abutter" means any owner or tenant who abuts a sidewalk.

"Authorized rubbish receptacle" shall be construed as heavy-duty plastic bags that are fastened securely with wire, string or tape and must be stored in authorized rubbish receptacles with tight fitting covers when stored outside.

"Barrel" means a metal or plastic barrel or other suitable rigid container not exceeding eight pounds in weight-empty, not exceeding thirty-two (32) gallons capacity;

"Bag" is a flexible, disposable, waterproof container not exceeding thirty-six (36) inches in height, twenty-four (24) inches in width, or twenty-eight (28) gallons capacity and specifically designed for rubbish disposal;

"Bundle" is a tied disposable package not exceeding forty-eight (48) inches in length and eighteen (18) inches in diameter or exceeding six cubic feet. No container may exceed fifty (50) pounds in weight when filled to capacity.

"Commercial waste" consists of any unusual wastes that accumulate on the premises of any commercial enterprise operating for profit not covered by the definition of "ordinary refuse," Tires, mufflers, tailpipes, or other parts of any motor vehicle generated by vehicular repair shops are considered as "commercial waste". Discarded building products, useable or nonuseable generated by any commercial service company in the construction, alteration or repair of any structure (e.g. brick, earth, plaster, lathing, roofing materials, lumber, plumbing fixtures, etc.) are considered as "commercial wastes". Such wastes shall not be collected by the city.

"Industrial wastes" are waste materials, products or by-products from factories, processing plants and other manufacturing enterprises including any food processing wastes, highly inflammable material or otherwise dangerous and/or hazardous wastes. Such wastes shall not be collected by the city.

"Joint maintenance" means the following:

1. The city retains ownership of the road layout including the portion known as the sidewalk and shall be responsible for major maintenance such as paving repairs or

replacement as deemed necessary;

2. The owner and/or tenant shall be responsible for the cleanliness, removal of debris, weeds and trapped litter from any sidewalk that abuts owned or rented property and shall exercise good and reasonable judgment in maintaining the sidewalk free from debris and litter at all times so as to insure the safe passage of all pedestrian traffic in an atmosphere free from dirt and litter.

"Litter" means refuse, garbage, rubbish or any unwanted waste materials in any amount intended for disposal by any person or persons. It may consist of animal or vegetable waste, paper, cellophane, rubber, glass, metal, plastic and other like materials.

"Littering" means the act of disposal of litter as defined in this section.

"Owner" means any person, proprietary firm or corporation holding title to any real property within the city.

"Person" or "persons" means any individual, firm, corporation or society.

"Refuse" means ordinary refuse which is unwanted, discarded, worthless materials or waste resulting from natural community activities, and consists of the following:

1. "Garbage" is the animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation and cooking of food for human consumption;

2. "Ashes" are the residue of the combustion of solid fuel, such as wood, coal, coke or like substances;

3. "Rubbish" is miscellaneous refuse such as paper, rags, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, glass, crockery, tin cans, corn husks, metallic substances, and like materials;

4. "Ordinary rubbish" will be collected by the city.

"Sidewalk" means any section of pavement consisting of part of a road layout owned by the city whose outside limits are defined by a curb, gutter or other established line and whose inner limits are defined by a private or public parcel of property.

"Tenant" means any person who rents or otherwise occupies for any purpose any part or parcel of real property in Lynn whether or not a landlord-tenant agreement exists. (Ord. 6/10/86 § 2)

8.24.020 Littering prohibited.

A. Any person(s) littering or otherwise disposing of litter on any street, road, highway or sidewalk in the city shall be in violation of this chapter.

B. Any person(s) littering or otherwise disposing of litter on any private property in Lynn in such a manner as to cause a general nuisance to the public welfare shall be in violation of this chapter.

C. All convenient stores or take-out food restaurants shall provide trash receptacles for the use of customers entering and exiting the premises. (Ord. 1/10/95 § 1; Ord. 6/10/86 § 3)

8.24.030 Joint maintenance of sidewalks.

A. All persons (owner(s) and/or tenant(s)) who fail to exercise reasonable daily maintenance in keeping a side walk abutting property owned, rented or otherwise occupied shall be in violation of this chapter.

B. All persons in commercial, light and heavy industrial zones, exercising joint maintenance to an abutting sidewalk shall be responsible to dispose of picked up litter or debris in a manner that does not conflict with other sections of this chapter. The sweeping of litter or debris from a sidewalk into the roadway shall be in violation of this chapter. An area zoned as residential, general residential, apartment house, or in areas where a letter sue has been granted for resident use, the responsibility shall lie with the property owner(s) and tenant(s) thereof.

C. This shall include all city agencies. (Ord. 6/10/86 §4)

8.24.040 Storage of wastes placed out for collection.

A. No owner, manager or operator of any multiple-family dwelling shall fail to provide at all times one or more trash containers on such property, of a size sufficient to accommodate the regular accumulation of trash from the property. (5/24/05 new)

B. No owner or manager of any multi-family dwelling shall fail to secure trash containers on the property so that they are not spilled or turned over by persons, animals, wind or other elements. Said trash container shall be so covered or otherwise secured as to prevent the trash or other contents thereof from blowing or otherwise escaping there from. (Amended 5/24/05)

C. No owner or manager of any multi-family dwelling shall fail to:

- (1) Prevent the accumulation of trash on such property and on the public right-of-way adjacent to the property;
- (2) Remove trash located on such property and on the public right-of-way adjacent to the property;
- (3) Dispose of trash frequently enough so that it does not cause any odor on the property;
- (4) Sufficiently bundle or contain recyclable materials so that those materials are not scattered on the public right-of-way or onto other properties. (5/24/05)

D. All trash, litter and refuse located upon private property awaiting collection and kept outdoors shall be stored in an "authorized rubbish

receptacle". Trash containers which are not stored outdoors and are only placed outdoors on the day of trash collection need not be equipped with covers. Authorized rubbish receptacles for City rubbish collection shall not exceed fifty pounds per container. Limit on weight does not apply to authorized rubbish receptacles for private collection. Receptacles should have the resident's address displayed clearly on the side of the barrel. On the day of collection only heavy duty plastic bags can be placed out and can only be put on top of authorized rubbish receptacles and cannot be placed on the ground. (Amended 12/21/07 & 10/14/08)

8.24.050 Collection.

A. Ordinary Refuse—Collection Schedule and Regulations. Ordinary refuse will be collected by the city or its agents as follows:

1. All containers will be collected weekly at curbside only on scheduled day of collection. Curbside means in front of any building facing on a traveled way in Lynn. Permanent containers (barrels in good repair) will be emptied and returned to curbside. Temporary containers (bags) will be collected as refuse. Containers shall be placed in such a manner so as not to obstruct pedestrian traffic.

2. All refuse must be placed in containers as defined in Section 8.24.040. The maximum number of containers that may be placed curbside for collection weekly shall not exceed six containers per unit except at the discretion of the commissioner of the department of public works, in which case it shall not exceed ten (10).

3. All garbage is to be well drained and separately wrapped before mixing with rubbish.

4. Discarded household furniture, and other materials not otherwise specifically excluded, will be collected if it is barreled, bagged, or bundled in strict compliance with all other sections of this chapter. The responsibility to break down or otherwise reduce the size of household furniture or other bulky items, etc., to acceptable size shall rest on the owner of these materials and not on the city or its agents.

5. Only trash, litter and refuse stored in authorized rubbish receptacles, including heavy duty plastic bags will be collected by the City of Lynn. (10/14/08 Amended)

B. Placement of Refuse.

1. All acceptable refuse may be placed out for collection no earlier than 5:00 p.m. on the day before scheduled collection and no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of trash collection. All acceptable rubbish receptacles shall be removed from the sidewalk no later than 11:30 p.m. on the day of collection. Anyone placing rubbish out after stop has been collected will be in violation of this chapter. (Amended 10/14/08)

2. No person, firm or corporation shall place out for collection any refuse that does not comply with this chapter.

C. Multi-Unit Dwellings and Commercial Buildings. A unit is defined as follows:

1. A single household, apartment or tenement of any residential building not exceeding six units.

2. In the case of hotels, motels, tourist homes, rooming houses, etc., a unit shall consist of any household, however small, of a building not exceeding six units.

3. In the case of an office building or other multi-complex commercial establishment not exceeding six units, a unit is defined as a single small enterprise.

4. Apartment houses, town houses, multi-unit housing developments, multi-unit shopping plazas or other commercial or industrial complexes where the total complex exceeds six units will not be collected.

5. Nursing homes, convalescent houses, dormitories or other similar dwelling will not be collected.

6. Any and all condominium units/associations with six or more units must containerize (i.e. dumpster) all trash, at their own expense, in order to have the city collect their trash. In addition, each condominium complex with six or more units must certify, in writing, with the department of public works commission, each year, that the trash has been containerized.

7. Any and all condominium units/associations with six or more units who, according to this chapter may have their refuse/trash collected, must participate in curbside recycling in order to do so.

8. Any and all condominium units/associations with six or more units must sign a waiver, release, and/or agreement, drafted by the city solicitor, holding the city harmless and free of any liability for damage and/or injury to person(s) or property, caused by the contracted collection service in order to have their refuse/trash collected in accordance with this chapter. (Ord. 6/10/97 § 1; Ord. 6/10/86 §6,7)

8.24.60 Prohibited activities.

A. No person shall disturb, remove or collect any ashes, rubbish or ordinary garbage from any premises without consent of the owner thereof, nor any ordinary commercial wastes placed out for collection, upon any sidewalk or way, except employees or agents of the city.

B. Private parties, firms or corporations may collect ordinary commercial and/or extraordinary commercial and industrial wastes provided that such collection shall be made only when such wastes are enclosed in tight metal or rigid containers which shall be nonleakable and the vehicle in which such wastes are carried including garbage and ordinary commercial wastes shall be subject to supervision of the commissioner of the department of public health and licensed therefore in accordance with statute.

C. No person shall disturb, remove or collect any material which has been placed upon any sidewalk, in accordance with this chapter without the written approval of the commissioner of the department of public works.

D. No person shall place refuse for collection in front of any building where the refuse was not generated. (Ord. 6/10/86 § 8)

8.24.070 Violation—Penalty.

A. Any person(s) who fails to comply with the provisions of Sections 8.24.040 through 8.24.060 shall, upon conviction, shall receive a written warning for the first offense be fined three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each subsequent offense. Each container and/or day's failure to comply with Sections 8.24.040 through 8.24.060 shall constitute a separate violation. (Amended 11/13/07 & 10/14/08)

B. Disposition of violations of Sections 8.24.020 through 8.24.060 shall be made through the Parking Department of the City of Lynn, Room 102, City Hall, Lynn, Massachusetts.

C. Failure to pay any assessed fine within twenty-one (21) days of the issuance of such will cause interest at a rate often (10) percent to accrue, proceedings commenced to place liens on real or personal property and/or a criminal complaint to be issued as provided for in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 16. (Ord. 2/14/89 §§ 1,2; Ord. 6/9/87 § 1; Ord. 6/10/86 § 9)

8.24.080 Enforcement

The City of Lynn Department of Inspectional Services shall be the enforcing authority for the provisions of this Ordinance. (Amended 10/14/08)