



CLEARLAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA 95422

Andrew White | Chief of Police

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – Code Enforcement

Question: How tall of a fence can I install on my property and where can I install it?

Answer: Front yard fencing located within the 20' required front yard (measured from front edge of property) may not exceed 4' in height. All other perimeter fencing (on or just inside the property line) may not exceed 6' in height. Interior fencing, located outside of all required construction setbacks (20' front, 5' each side and 10' at rear) may not exceed 8' in height. **NOTE:** If fencing is to be installed on top of a retaining wall or on a sloped parcel, contact the City of Clearlake Planning Department for further guidelines and rules.

Question: How many vehicles can I legally park on my property?

Answer: The City has no regulations regarding how many operative vehicles you can park on an improved residential parcel (where a legal dwelling is located), provided that the vehicles are parked in a garage, under a legal carport or in the designated driveway area. Parking of vehicles, operative or not, is not permitted in front yards. Parking of inoperative vehicles is not permitted in public view. Inoperative vehicles can be stored on an improved parcel provided it is stored within a garage or behind solid and legal privacy fencing and not causing any other type of nuisance defined by law.

Question: Where can I install a swimming pool on my property?

Answer: Swimming pools can be installed on any improved residential parcel (where a legal dwelling is located), provided it meets the minimum setback requirements (20' front, 5' each side and 10' at rear). Swimming pools are not permitted in front yards. This applies to any swimming pool 18" deep or deeper. A building permit is required with the City of Clearlake Building Department to install a swimming pool 18" or deeper. Prior to installing this type of swimming pool, you may want to contact the Planning Department as there are very specific local and State safety guidelines and regulations.

Question: Where can I build on my property?

Answer: Construction of any type, excluding fencing, is not permitted on an unimproved parcel without a dwelling. You may build on any improved residential parcel (where a legal dwelling is located), provided it meets the minimum setback requirements (20' front, 5' each side and 10' at rear). Structures less than 120 square feet, and are not livable space, do not require the issuance of a building permit **UNLESS** electrical or plumbing utilities are to be included. Structures being constructed which attach to or are near a dwelling structure may require a fire wall. Contact the City of Clearlake Planning Department for fire wall inquiries and requirements.



Question: Can I camp or occupy an RV, travel trailer or any other type of vehicle within the city?

Answer: Camping or occupancy of an RV or travel trailer is only permitted within a campground or RV park.

Exception- An RV may be parked in a residential parking space or driveway and occupied for no more than 7 days, for the purpose of housing guests of on-site residents only. Electrical cord may be hooked up to dwelling, however discharging of waste or sewage into the sewage system is not permitted.

Question: Is it legal to grow marijuana on my residential property?

Answer: State law allows for 6 mature plants to be cultivated indoors. In addition to State law, the City of Clearlake has adopted an ordinance allowing the cultivation of up to 6 mature marijuana plants outdoors, in most areas of the city. The outdoor cultivation of marijuana is **NOT PERMITTED** in mobile home parks, properties with multifamily dwellings, any parcel fronting Clear Lake, any parcel within 100' of Clear Lake, Borax Lake, Burns Valley Creek, Miller Creek, Alvita Creek, Molesworth Creek or Cache Creek, within commercial, MUR, scenic corridor or beautification zones or within hoop style greenhouse structures.

At no time may more than 6 mature plants be cultivated indoors and / or outdoors. To cultivate outdoors, you must first obtain a cultivation permit (annually) with the Clearlake Police Department. Specific requirements apply to the location of where the cultivation will be taking place and security / fencing matters.

Question: Can I store items outdoors?

Answer: Yes, household items, tools, appliances etc. can be stored outdoors or within a garage or shed type structure provided the storage is done so out of public view, behind legal and solid privacy fencing and is not causing any other nuisance. The storage of, within public view or out of public view, trash, junk, debris, tires, inoperative appliances etc., is not permitted.

Question: What kind of livestock can I have in a residential zoned area?

Answer: Small livestock, such as chickens, ducks and rabbits are permitted in all residential areas. Roosters are not listed as a permitted animal. Properties located within an agriculture zone may have up to 4 medium or large livestock animals per every 5000 square feet of land.

Question: Can I utilize a generator for my main source of electrical power?

Answer: No. Generators are not permitted to be used as the primary source of electrical energy to any dwelling unit. Generators may be used for emergency backup for the duration of an unplanned power outage, public safety power shut off or act of God. When operating a generator during one of these events, the generator must be operated outdoors, not located near flammable items and connected to the dwelling legally and in a safe manner.

Question: I like to work on vehicles as a hobby and also to help out my friends and family when their vehicles break down. Can I work on vehicles on my own property?

Answer: In a residential zoned area, you are permitted to work on your own personal vehicles provided it is done out of public view and on a non-porous surface or within an enclosed garage. Vehicle repairs for friends, family or as a business are not permitted at any time.