

# Saskatoon's **Good Neighbour Guide**



## Hello, neighbour!

This guide is a handy overview of Saskatoon's bylaws, standards and regulations to help us all do our part to keep our neighbourhoods and city safe, clean and beautiful.

If ever you have any questions about Dos and Don'ts, please DO get in touch with the Bylaw Compliance team at 306-657-8766 or email [bylaw.compliance@saskatoon.ca](mailto:bylaw.compliance@saskatoon.ca) and they'll be happy to help.

Hey, that's what neighbours are for, right?

## What's Inside

<b>Around Your Property</b> .....	4
<b>Back Lanes</b> .....	4
<b>Drainage</b> .....	4
Lot Grading .....	4
Downspouts & Sump Discharge .....	5
Storm Drains .....	6
<b>Extension Cords</b> .....	6
<b>Fences</b> .....	6
<b>Fire Pits</b> .....	7
<b>Garage &amp; Yard Sales</b> .....	8
<b>Garbage, Recycling &amp; Composting</b> .....	8
Compost Depots .....	9
<b>Home-Based Businesses</b> .....	10
<b>Home Development</b> .....	10
Boarders & Secondary Suites .....	10
Building Permits .....	11
Driveways .....	12
<b>Hot Tubs &amp; Swimming Pools</b> .....	12
<b>Landscaping</b> .....	13
Boulevard Landscaping & Gardening .....	13
City Trees .....	13
Private Trees & Shrubs .....	14
Tall Grass & Weeds .....	14
<b>Noise</b> .....	15
<b>Parking</b> .....	15
On Private Property .....	15
Residential Streets .....	16
<b>Responsible Pet Ownership</b> .....	16
Disturbances .....	16
Livestock .....	17
Pet Licensing .....	17
Protection .....	17
<b>Snow/Ice on Sidewalks</b> .....	18
<b>Untidy Properties</b> .....	18
<b>Making a Bylaw Complaint</b> .....	19

## Around Your Property

Your home may be your castle, but for the good of your community, you're also responsible for caring for your yard, adjacent boulevards, sidewalks, and the back lane. That's what being a good neighbour is all about!

## Back Lanes

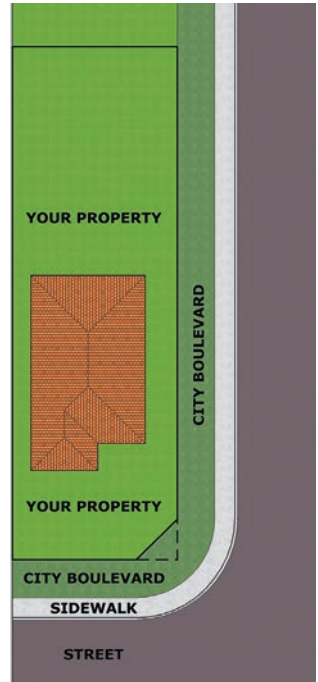


Figure 1 – Your Property vs City Property

Taking pride in the appearance of your back lane shows you care and encourages your neighbours to do the same. But keeping your lane free from overgrown grass, weeds, unwanted trees and junk isn't just for looks. You're helping to keep your neighbourhood safe, too.

## Drainage

Have you ever heard the saying, “Good fences make good neighbours”? Well, we know good drainage helps, too! Please make sure your yard is properly graded so water flows to the lane or the street — not toward your home or anyone else's. Working together will help keep everyone safe, dry and getting along.

## Lot Grading

Whether you're in a new neighbourhood, or an established one, we ask neighbours to work together to slope the sides of their yards toward their shared property line so water drains toward the rear property line or the street.



Figure 2 – Drainage Channels

For property drainage recommendations and your lot grading plan, check out [saskatoon.ca/lotdrainage](https://saskatoon.ca/lotdrainage).

### Did you know?

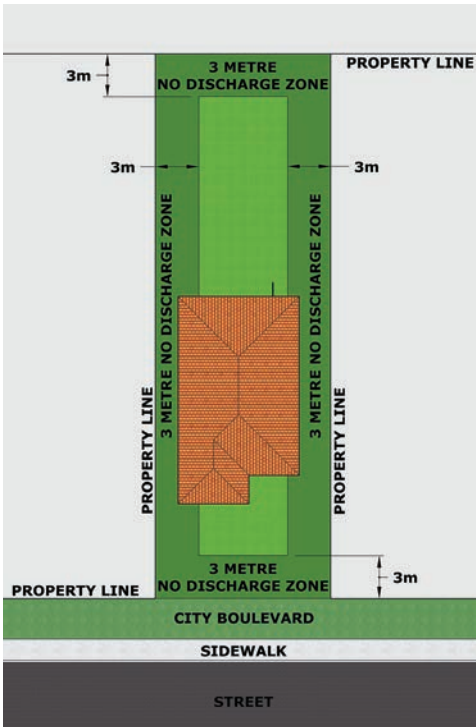
If you don't have a back lane, your rear property line acts as a drainage channel. The area adjacent to your rear property line should have a constant slope in order to drain surface water to the street or catch basin. Thanks for keeping your rear property line properly sloped and unobstructed so drainage water can go with the flow!

## Downspouts & Sump Discharge

Downspouts extending from the eavestroughs on your house or garage help to keep rain and melting snow from entering or damaging your living space. Your home may also have a perforated pipe called a weeping tile that wraps around the bottom of your foundation. This pipe collects water in the ground and drains it into a sump pit in your basement. Then a sump pump discharges that water back above ground away from your house.

Please make sure your downspouts and sump discharges:

- ✓ Extend at least 2 metres (6.5 feet) away from any foundation
- ✓ Are located at least 3 metres (10 feet) from any property line
- ✓ Aren't directed onto neighbouring properties
- ✓ Flow onto a permeable surface like a lawn or garden (not a City sidewalk, street or back lane)



### Did you know?

Sump pump discharges are not to be directed onto City sidewalks, walkways, streets, or back lanes. In the winter they can make an icy dangerous mess. Thanks for helping to keep the sidewalks and everyone who uses them safe!

Figure 3 - Sump and Downspout Discharge Areas

## Storm Drains

Saskatoon's rain and melting snow makes its way from our storm water drains to the South Saskatchewan River.

You can help protect your home and neighbourhood from flooding by never pushing snow, leaves or other debris from your yard or boulevard onto the street, or dumping anything into the storm drain. Not only is our river beautiful to look at, we have it to thank for the water we use for recreation, cooking and drinking. Fish and wildlife need it, too! It's in all of our best interest to look after it.

### Did you know?

Water entering our storm sewers doesn't go through the sewage treatment plant. Please help protect the health and safety of the public and the environment by not disposing of anything in the storm drain. If you see someone dumping hazardous waste or chemicals, please call the Customer Care Centre at 306-975-2476 to report them.

## Extension Cords

We recognize that in our climate, sometimes there may be a need to place an extension cord across a City sidewalk in order to plug in a vehicle. To avoid the cord becoming a tripping hazard, please make sure that the cord lays flat, that it is highly visible, and place it onto private property when not in use.



## Fences

While the City of Saskatoon regulates fencing maintenance and height, we don't get involved in property line disputes. If you're unsure where the property line is, please consult a land surveyor. We also encourage you to do the neighbourly thing and talk to your neighbours before putting up a fence.

To avoid serious injury or worse, please contact Sask 1st Call at 1-866-828-4888 or [sask1stcall.com](http://sask1stcall.com) at least 48 hours before you dig to locate all of the utility lines.

Fences in Saskatoon can be as tall as 1 metre (3.2 feet) in front yards and 2 metres (6.5 feet) in the side and rear yards. Please keep yours in good repair and free of graffiti.



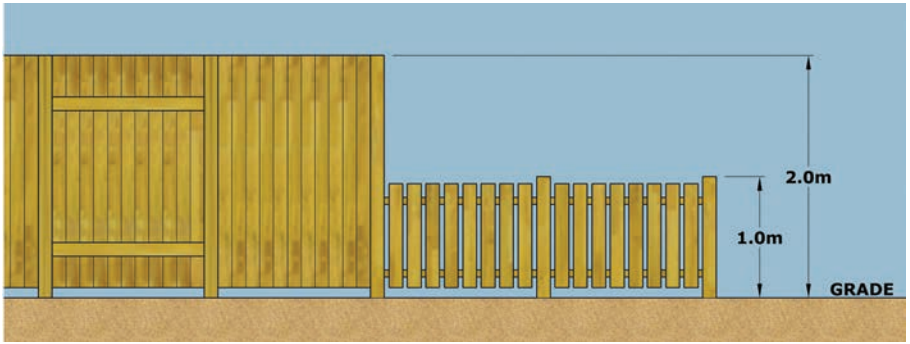


Figure 4 - Permitted Fence Heights

## Fire Pits

Relaxing around a backyard firepit is one of the joys of summer – or any season! Here are some tips to keep it that way:

- ✓ Burn only between 2 and 11 p.m. Barbecues and other outdoor cooking appliances are exempt.
- ✓ Keep your fire at least 3 metres (10 feet) from buildings, overhanging soffits, trees or anything combustible.
- ✓ Burn only dry, cut, seasoned firewood or charcoal briquettes.
- ✓ Please keep smoke and noise to a minimum.
- ✓ Don't hog the marshmallows.
- ✓ Find the Bylaw and more fire pit safety information at [saskatoon.ca/firepits](http://saskatoon.ca/firepits).

If smoke is an issue in your neighbourhood, please call the Saskatoon Fire Department at 306-975-3030 (in an emergency call 911). For questions about The Fire Bylaw (No. 7990), please call the Fire Department at 306-975-2520.



## Garage & Yard Sales

Garage and yard sales can be a useful (and fun!) way to reduce, reuse and recycle. Here are some things you should know:

- ✓ Garage or yard sales may be conducted in residential neighbourhoods by someone living at the property, or by a non-profit group associated with a place of worship, school, community association, or another similar group.
- ✓ Personal property only, please. The retail sale of new items is not permitted.
- ✓ No more than four sales per site in a year. Sales can last three consecutive days, max.
- ✓ Don't feel guilty about selling that ceramic unicorn from Aunt Edith. Someone will love it!



### Did you know?

We don't mind if you place a sign for your garage sale on City property, as long as it's not on a centre median, traffic island, City tree or light pole. Please remember to remove your sign when the sale's over.

## Garbage, Recycling & Composting

The people of Saskatoon care about keeping their city beautiful and their planet healthy — that's why we have one of the best waste disposal, recycling and composting programs in Canada. Thanks for doing your part! Please familiarize yourself with what can and can't be recycled at [saskatoon.ca/wastewizard](https://saskatoon.ca/wastewizard) — not only will you help keep things out of the landfill that don't belong there, you'll help keep the workers who handle your household recycling safe.





Your **blue cart** is for clean and flattened recyclables. If you've subscribed to the City's composting program, you have a **green cart** for food and yard waste. All other waste (except for liquids and prohibited or hazardous material) must be bagged and go into your **black cart**.

To make sure your cart is picked up, here are some things to remember:

- ✓ Set your cart out by 7 a.m. on your collection day with at least 1.2 metres (4 feet) of space on either side.
- ✓ Be sure to close your cart lid completely (even a 2-inch lift doesn't count). Trying to empty overfilled carts can make a huge mess and send litter flying, defeating the whole purpose!
- ✓ Please put your cart back (away from the road, sidewalk, back lane) within 24 hours to avoid fines, theft or damage to your cart.

### Did you know?

Collection Calendars are available online. Sign up for text updates, get the Saskatoon Recycle & Waste app, or print your own calendar at [saskatoon.ca/collectioncalendar](http://saskatoon.ca/collectioncalendar). Never miss a pick up again!

## Compost Depots

From mid-April to early November, Saskatonians are welcome to drop off leaves, grass, sod, topsoil, garden refuse, pumpkins, and non-elm branches, stumps and tree trimmings free of charge at our Compost Depots. We use this compost and mulch to keep Saskatoon's parks and community gardens healthy and beautiful — and others green with envy. Thank you so much for your help!

### East Compost Depot

- ✓ Highway 5 (at the junction of Highway 41 and Zimmerman)
- ✓ Open 5 days a week, Thursday through Monday (including stat holidays), from 11-5.

### West Compost Depot

- ✓ Highway 7 at 11th Street (1.8 km south of 22nd Street)
- ✓ Open 7 days a week (including stat holidays) from 9-6.



### Did you know?

Saskatoon's Green Cart Program is an optional fee-for-service program for residential yard and food waste. This program offers bi-weekly front-street collection and is available to homes with Blue and Black carts. To learn more, please visit [saskatoon.ca/greencart](http://saskatoon.ca/greencart) or call the Utilities and Environment Department at 306-975-2486.

## Home-Based Businesses

Saskatoon is home to so many talented entrepreneurs, including many who work at home. The standards for home-based businesses seek to balance a quiet, safe residential environment with the aspirations of home-based entrepreneurs so everyone wins.

Businesses operating from a residence must have a license. To learn more, please contact Licensing and Permitting at 306-975-2760 or email [business.license@saskatoon.ca](mailto:business.license@saskatoon.ca).



### Did you know?

Because of their disruptive nature, certain types of businesses aren't permitted to be home-based in Saskatoon. These include (but are not limited to) restaurant/take-out food services and detailing, repairing or selling vehicles. You can see the full list of prohibited home-based businesses at [saskatoon.ca/homebasedbusinesses](http://saskatoon.ca/homebasedbusinesses).

## Home Development

### Boarders & Secondary Suites

A **boarder** is someone who rents sleeping accommodations in your home. The room doesn't have its own kitchen. The City allows up to five boarders in a one-unit dwelling, and two boarders in each unit of a two-unit dwelling or semi-detached home.



A **secondary suite** is a self-contained dwelling inside a one-unit dwelling. Secondary suites are not permitted in a two-unit dwelling or semi-detached home.

Suites built before 1999 may be legalized through the **LES (Legalizing Existing Suites) Program**, which includes a more cost-efficient occupancy standard. Suites built without a permit in 1999 or after must comply with the current National Building Code. A building permit is required for any new secondary suite.

The City of Saskatoon will rebate fees for building and plumbing permits, along with a portion of the Legalizing an Existing Suite (LES) Occupancy fee for completed secondary suites. For more information, please visit [saskatoon.ca/secondariesuites](http://saskatoon.ca/secondariesuites) or call Building Standards at 306-975-2645.

## Building Permits

One and two-unit homes aren't the only buildings that require a building permit. Other projects include:

- ✓ Decks over 200mm (8 inches) above grade
- ✓ Garages
- ✓ Carports
- ✓ Garden and garage suites
- ✓ Secondary suites
- ✓ Basement developments
- ✓ Swimming pools
- ✓ Accessory buildings (larger than 10m<sup>2</sup>/100 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- ✓ Other related residential buildings

Please keep your construction site safe and clean, removing debris on a regular basis. To obtain a permit, homeowners must submit the required information to Building Standards at [saskatoon.ca/buildingpermits](http://saskatoon.ca/buildingpermits) or on the third floor of City Hall. If you have any questions about Building Permits, feel free to call Building Standards at 306-975-2645.

### Did you know?

Friendly communication is the best way to build a healthy relationship with your neighbours. Talk with them in person about what you're planning to build, how long you expect it to take and how the work might affect them. The sooner you talk with them, the better!



## Driveways

You don't need a permit to change your driveway, unless you'll be altering part of a City boulevard. For more information on driveway crossings, please see details and application forms on the website at [saskatoon.ca/driveways](http://saskatoon.ca/driveways).

If you have any additional questions about obtaining a Right of Way Permit, just call Transportation & Construction at 306-986-9729.



## Hot Tubs & Swimming Pools

Do you have a pool or a hot tub? Lucky you! Here are two things to keep in mind for everyone's safety:

- ✓ Please drain your pool/hot tub into your property's sanitary sewer line — not onto the ground or into the storm drain. This is so the chlorinated water is treated at a wastewater treatment plant.
- ✓ Your pool must be enclosed by fencing before being filled with water and it must have a self-closing gate. For more on pool fencing requirements, please see The Swimming Pool Bylaw (No. 7981) or contact our Building Standards Division by calling 306-975-2645 or email [building.standards@saskatoon.ca](mailto:building.standards@saskatoon.ca).



## Landscaping

While there are no regulations for homeowners to landscape their yards, we highly recommend it! Not only will it beautify your home and neighbourhood but it will also enhance your property value.



## Boulevard Landscaping & Gardening

Calling all green thumbs: Would you like to beautify the City boulevard next to your home by planting new grass or sod? Thank you! The City of Saskatoon really appreciates the care residents take in landscaping, maintaining, mowing, and weeding the boulevards. You're even welcome to plant a garden with flowers, herbs and/or veggies. All we ask is that you refrain from planting trees and shrubs and that you fill out a boulevard garden agreement with us so we can keep track of all of these gardens making our gorgeous city even more gorgeous!

For more information, please visit [saskatoon.ca/boulevardgardens](https://saskatoon.ca/boulevardgardens) or call Environment Sustainability at 306-986-3733.

### Did you know?

The City of Saskatoon offers FREE grass seed to residents with a boulevard next to their property. Just give us a call at 306-975-7774 to find out more and arrange for pick up!

## City Trees

Taking great care of City-owned trees on boulevards, centre medians and in parks is the responsibility of our Urban Forestry team, but you can help, too. If a City tree near your home needs maintenance or you're concerned about its health, please request a tree inspection at [saskatoon.ca/treeinspections](https://saskatoon.ca/treeinspections) or call Urban Forestry at 306-975-2890.



### Did you know?

Any homeowner interested in having a City tree planted in front of their home can make a request by filling out the "Request a Tree" application at [saskatoon.ca/treeplanting](https://saskatoon.ca/treeplanting). It's as easy as one, two, TREE!

## Private Trees & Shrubs

Homeowners are responsible for making sure that hedges, trees and shrubs on their property don't interfere with pedestrians using the sidewalk or vehicles on the street or alley.

Please talk with your neighbours before trimming trees or branches near or overhanging your property line. The City of Saskatoon doesn't mediate private tree disputes. More often than not, lack of communication tends to be the "root" of the problem!



### Did you know?

To help prevent Dutch elm disease and the destruction of Saskatoon's urban forest, please don't prune elm trees between April 1 and August 31. It's actually against the law in Saskatchewan. Anyone wishing to prune elms during the ban must obtain a permit. Learn more at [saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease](https://saskatoon.ca/dutchelmdisease) or call Urban Forestry at 306-975-2890.

## Tall Grass & Weeds

Controlling your grass and weeds is one of the simplest ways to be a good neighbour. Property owners, including those with vacant lots, are responsible for keeping grass and weeds in check and no higher than 20 cm (7.8 inches). To report an unsightly property, please call the Property Maintenance and Safety Hotline at 306-975-2828.

### Did you know?

If a property is found to be in violation of the Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw (No.8175) fines start at \$250. Ouch.



## Noise

Everyone in Saskatoon has the right to peace and quiet. Let's all be considerate and remember that noise travels further at night.

Hours of quiet enjoyment are:

- ✓ Monday to Saturday (not including holidays) 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- ✓ Sunday and holidays 10 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Saskatoon Police enforce the Noise Bylaw (No. 8244). To file a noise complaint, please call them at 306-975-8300.



## Parking

### On Private Property

Any vehicles, including RVs, parked on private property must be parked on a hard surface like gravel, concrete or asphalt and must be accessible using a driveway crossing or a rolled curb. Vehicles may not be parked or stored on the front lawn. Please park unregistered or inoperable vehicles in a garage.

Under the Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw (No. 8175), any vehicle that doesn't have a valid license plate attached or is in a rusted, wrecked, inoperable or abandoned condition and is not stored within a garage is considered a junked vehicle.

### Did you know?

To ensure public safety, when parking an RV on your driveway, please make sure it's at least 1.2 meters (4 feet) from the inside of the sidewalk. If you see a vehicle parked on a lawn or an RV too close to the sidewalk, please report the address to the Bylaw Compliance Hotline at 306-657-8766 or fill out a confidential complaint form at [saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint](https://saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint).



## Residential Streets

Parking on a residential city street is on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. Registered vehicles may be parked on any city street for up to 72 hours, except as otherwise indicated by a sign or provided for in the Traffic Bylaw, No. 7200. Unregistered vehicles will be towed and impounded.

RVs may not be parked on a residential city street for more than 36 hours and must be removed from all city streets for at least 48 hours before being parked again.

With the exception of RVs, vehicles longer than 6 metres (19.6 feet) are not allowed to park on any residential street for more than an hour.

If you're unsure about where or how to park, please call Parking Services at 306-975-2548 or email [parking.services@saskatoon.ca](mailto:parking.services@saskatoon.ca).

### Did you know?

Vehicles can't be parked in a back lane, including behind a garage. If a vehicle has been illegally parked in the lane or is causing an obstruction, please call the Parking Enforcement Hotline at 306-975-8344 to report it. To better understand parking in Saskatoon and to help avoid getting a ticket, please visit [saskatoon.ca/understandingparking](http://saskatoon.ca/understandingparking).

## Responsible Pet Ownership

### Disturbances

As a responsible pet owner, you're expected to keep your pets from negatively affecting other people, animals and the environment. This includes proper waste disposal, noise control, and not allowing your pets to stray.

If you have any of the following concerns, the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA) is available 24/7 at 306-385-7387:

- ✓ Reporting a lost animal
- ✓ Reporting animals at large
- ✓ Reporting barking and howling
- ✓ Complaints regarding animal waste
- ✓ Reporting dangerous animals





## Livestock

Saskatoon doesn't allow livestock in residential areas. They're an E-I-E-I-NO-NO! This includes (but is not limited to) cattle, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, horses, chickens, turkeys, waterfowl and similar animals. Want more information on prohibited animals? Call Animal Control at 306-385-7387.



### Did you know?

Backyard chickens and chicken coops are not allowed in Saskatoon. Hear a cluck cluck here or a cluck cluck there? Please report backyard chickens at [saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint](https://saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint) or call the Bylaw Compliance Hotline at 306-657-8766.

## Pet Licensing

Pet licensing acts as a “check and balance” system to ensure that pet owners are doing their part to keep the community and their pets safe. All cats and dogs over four months old must be licensed. You can purchase or renew pet licenses at [licensepet.com/saskatoon](https://licensepet.com/saskatoon) or in person at City Hall, SACA, SPCA, or any participating pet license vendors. Pet licenses are valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

Learn more at [saskatoon.ca/animalservices](https://saskatoon.ca/animalservices).



### Did you know?

There is a \$250 fine for not licensing your dog or cat over 4 months old. While microchips are not licenses, they can be tied to a valid pet license; this ensures that you and your pet will be quickly reunited should they ever get lost.

## Protection

The Saskatoon Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) investigates complaints of animal abuse, cruelty and neglect. If you suspect animal abuse or neglect, hoarding of animals or animals in distress, please contact 306-374-PETS (7387) to report it. Thank you for being a voice for the voiceless.

### Did you know?

Wildlife in distress should be brought to the attention of a wildlife rescue agency because they have access to a network of licensed, experienced wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians. Please call the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan Hotline at 306-242-7177 to report a wild animal in distress.

## Snow/Ice on Sidewalks

For everyone's safety, under the City's Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw (No. 8463), residents and property owners must clear snow and ice from City sidewalks next to their property within 48 hours of a snowfall. Thanks snow much for shovelling the snow onto your property, not the street!



If a sidewalk in your neighbourhood is not cleared after 48 hours, please note the address and call the Bylaw Compliance Hotline at 306-657-8766 or fill out a confidential complaint form at [saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint](https://saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint).

### Did you know?

Didn't have a chance to shovel? Our bylaw inspectors are not cold-hearted. First, they'll give you a warning and 48 hours to clear your sidewalk. Once a re-inspection takes place, any portion of an un-cleared sidewalk will be cleared by a contractor and the cost will be added to the property owner's tax roll.

## Untidy Properties

We all deserve to live in a safe, attractive neighbourhood.

Residents are responsible for ensuring yards are kept free and clean from:

- ✓ Garbage and junk
- ✓ Junked vehicles and dismantled machinery
- ✓ Weeds and grass taller than 20 centimetres/ 8 inches
- ✓ Holes and excavations that could cause an accident
- ✓ Rodents, vermin and insects
- ✓ Areas that may allow water to pond



If you feel a building or yard is a threat to public health or safety, please call the Property Maintenance and Safety Hotline at 306-975-2828. In an emergency, call 911.

## Making a Bylaw Complaint

Talking with your neighbour is often the simplest way of resolving concerns. In situations where this just isn't possible, residents may file a complaint at [saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint](https://saskatoon.ca/bylawcomplaint).

While the City's Bylaw Compliance team does not accept anonymous complaints, they will keep your identity and complaint confidential. For the same privacy reasons, they cannot give you an update after they investigate.

Each complaint must include:

- ✓ Name, address and phone number of the complainant
- ✓ Address of the property of concern
- ✓ Detailed description of the complaint

Thank you for being a good neighbour and for upholding the city's standards and bylaws. We couldn't do it without you! By sharing this responsibility, it ensures that Saskatoon remains a great place to live.



222 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 0J5

This guide contains a summary of the most common concerns within the City of Saskatoon and is intended as a guide only. The information contained in this guide was accurate at the time of printing.

To read the full description of each bylaw, please visit [saskatoon.ca/bylaws](https://saskatoon.ca/bylaws) and if you have any questions please contact Bylaw Compliance at 306-657-8766.

May 2020