



Frequently Asked Questions About Title 26: Land use enforcement code

Adopted by Thurston County Board of County Commissioners in February 2016

Updated : March 22, 2016

Q Why was the code changed?

Existing enforcement codes have been in place for many years and are somewhat confusing. Consolidating codes made them easier to interpret and enforce. Adding an administrative enforcement option aligned Thurston County with the neighboring counties of Pierce, Lewis, Mason and Grays Harbor who already use something similar. Existing civil enforcement options in Thurston County's Solid Waste division have proven to be effective. The proposal was also intended to:

- Make it easier for people to find and understand the pertinent codes.
- Reduce the cost of enforcement to property owners and the time it takes to achieve compliance.

Q What was proposed?

Thurston County adopted a proposal to change Thurston County's land use enforcement code.

Q What did this proposal do?

- Consolidated and simplified the directions for code enforcement.
- Created an additional administrative method for code enforcement.
- Created a more fair and equitable application for enforcement by adding language to the code which makes the violator of the code liable, and not just the land owner.

Q What was NOT proposed?

- There is no new criminal enforcement provision.
- There is no change regarding inspection.
- Thurston County staff still do not have the ability to enter your home without your permission, a warrant or a court order. These options are in the code now and they remain unchanged.

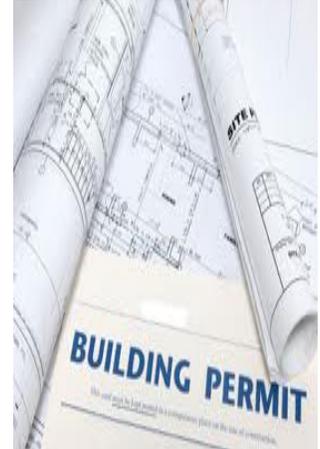
Q Was public comment allowed?

Yes. Public hearings were held in March 2015, February 2014 and October 2013. Public hearing comment periods accompanied each public hearing.

Q What was affected?

The most common enforcement issues relate to land use violations and what the County can do to respond to neighbor concerns about:

- Junk vehicles
- Building without a permit
- Diverting a stream or filling in a wetland



The most common enforcement issues are junk car removal, building without a permit and filling in protected wetlands.

More Information or Contact us

Full code will be in the County's online 'Municode' webpage by July 2016. https://www.municode.com/library/wa/thurston_county/codes/code_of_ordinances

- Phone: (360) 786-5490 - General Permit Line
- E-mail: permit@co.thurston.wa.us.