

KENT ADOPTS STRICTER TRASH REGULATIONS

Unfortunately, solid waste continues to be a major concern for the City of Kent. A business owner and Kent resident for over 20 years, Tom Simpson, stated "Downtown Kent is far cleaner now than ever. However, the entire city still has a ways to go because of some fundamental issues with trash." The total number of solid waste violations and time spent by health department staff has increased significantly over the last few years.

Most people put forth an excellent effort in helping to keep Kent beautiful. However, it only takes a few bad apples to ruin the entire bunch. Health Department data shows that 92% of all documented trash violations involve rental properties. Complying with the local trash ordinance needs to be a priority for all tenants and landlords.

Beginning April 1, 2015, the City of Kent Health Department will start issuing immediate citations resulting from violations of city ordinance 521.08. The citation will be similar to a parking ticket. The ticket will range from \$10 to \$40 depending on the number of specific violations at a property. The violations include:

Ticket Amount	Violation	Details
\$10	Loose litter	Excessive loose litter is scattered throughout the property.
\$10	Improper solid waste storage	Solid waste is not stored properly. Trash shall be stored in a watertight receptacle with a tight-fitting lid. Inadequate size and/or number of storage containers is a violation.
\$10	Solid waste along the curb too early	Solid waste and/or discarded furniture is along the curb outside of the permitted times. Solid waste is not permitted to be along the curb before 7pm the day before collection day.
\$10	Empty containers along the curb too long	Empty solid waste containers or recycle containers are along the curb past 7pm on collection day.

Those in violation of the local trash ordinance will then be given 24 hours to comply or risk a secondary fine of up to \$250. If you are interested in being a courteous neighbor, improving the aesthetics of Kent, and complying with the local trash ordinance, please remember the following tips:

1. Pickup loose litter from the tree lawn, yard, driveway, and porch.
2. Make sure that active trash service is always in place with your provider (Republic, etc.).
3. Know your assigned trash pickup day.
4. Make sure that all trash is stored in a trash can with a tight fitting lid.
5. Make sure that there are enough trash containers available to store all trash.
6. Large trash totes with attached lids and wheels allow for more storage and easier transport.
7. Increase the amount of trash removal if currently inadequate. Unlimited service is available.
8. Make sure that tenants and landlords have a clear understanding the trash responsibilities.
9. Do not take trash/furniture to the curb earlier than 7pm the day before pickup.
10. Retrieve empty trash and recycle containers the same day as pickup.
11. Do not allow trash, furniture, litter, or empty containers to remain on the lawn over 24 hours.
12. Label trash cans and recycle bins with your address
13. If a special pickup is needed (couch, mattress, etc.), call your provider several days in advance of your assigned pickup date to ensure proper removal.

Stricter rules were put into place to encourage compliance and to keep Kent beautiful. In addition to obeying a citywide ordinance, the solid waste concern can be solved if everyone takes pride in their community. Contribution is needed from everyone that lives in Kent, works in Kent, or goes to school in Kent. Everyone must work together to help keep the Tree City beautiful.

Please take the time to visit our website (<http://www.kentpublichealth.org/housing.php>) for additional details about the trash program.