

ARTICLE 18: JUNKYARD REGULATIONS

Section

- 18:1 Purpose
 - 18:2 General Provisions
 - 18:3 Operation
 - 18:4 Permit Requirements
-

§ 18:1 PURPOSE.

Jasper County Council finds that junkyards:

1. Are a visual blight and are patently offensive to the aesthetic quality of the environment in Jasper County;
2. Pose a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Jasper County;
3. Pose a fire hazard, and may cause soil and groundwater contamination;
4. Pose a threat of injury to children or other individuals who may be attracted to the premises;
5. Depreciate the value of surrounding properties and may inhibit future development of the area.

Because of the negative impacts that junkyards have on the community, Jasper County Council has provided a standard for the establishment, use, and maintenance of junkyards in Jasper County so as to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Jasper County.

In order to fulfill the purposes for which this ordinance is adopted, the provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all junkyards located in the unincorporated areas of Jasper County, regardless of when such junkyards were established.

§ 18:2 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

1. **Junk.** The term “junk” shall include, but not be limited to abandoned barrels or drums, dismantled or inoperable industrial or commercial equipment or machinery being salvaged for parts, and the following old, scrap, or used items: metal; rope; rags; batteries; paper; cardboard; plastic; rubber; pallets; appliances; motors; industrial or commercial fixtures; rubbish; debris; wrecked, dismantled or disabled motor vehicles or parts thereof.
2. **Junkyard.** The term “junkyard” shall mean any property which is used in part or in whole for storing, keeping, buying or selling of items defined as “Junk.” For the purpose of this ordinance, properly licensed sanitary landfills are exempt.
3. **Fencing and Screening.** All junkyards shall be enclosed on all sides by a chain link fence with evergreen screening of an approved type, a chain link fence with vinyl, metal or wooden strips or slats woven into the fence fabric, a wooden privacy fence, or other type material which has been given approval by the DSR. All metal or wooden fence posts shall have at least one-third of their length below ground level and shall be set in hard packed clay or concrete. All metal fence posts shall be treated with an anti-corrosive coating. All wooden posts shall be pressure treated or creosote coated lumber with at least a four inch by four inch nominal cross section.
 - a. The term “fence” shall mean an eight (8) foot tall chain link or wooden fence which forms a substantial physical barrier which is capable of withstanding the effects of the local climate and which completely surrounds the items defined as “Junk.” Other fencing materials may be approved by the DSR.
 - b. The term “Evergreen Screening” shall mean evergreen trees or shrubs with a minimum height of not less than eight (8) feet when mature. Acceptable species include, but are not limited to, Ligustium, Euonymous, Leyland Cypress, White Pine, Cedar, Arborvitae, Hemlock, and upright varieties of Juniper, Holly and Yew. Other species may be approved by the DSR.
 - c. The term “visual screen” shall mean a static barrier which shields the junkyard from view. The visual screen shall extend from the ground to a height of eight (8) feet and shall completely enclose the junkyard. Not more than twenty-five (25) percent of the vertical surface shall be open to allow the passage of air, but any such openings shall be designed to obscure visibility.
4. **Location** - No junkyard shall be established within 500 feet of any existing church, school, cemetery or dwelling. No junkyard shall be established within 500 feet of any transportation corridor as listed in Article 16 of this Ordinance.

§ 18:3 OPERATION.

1. All junkyard business shall be conducted entirely within the screened area of the property.
2. No junk shall be stacked, stored or maintained at a height greater than eight (8) feet above the adjacent grade.
3. Adequate off-street customer parking must be provided, and must be graveled or paved in an acceptable manner.
4. All junkyards shall comply with all applicable chapters in the “Standard Fire Prevention Code” and any other pertinent requirements.
5. Scrap Metal Processors, while considered to be junkyards by definition, shall be exempt from the permit requirements of Section 8 herein. In addition, the eight (8) foot stacking requirement of Section 7(b) shall not apply if the scrap metal processor is located substantially below the grade of the adjacent public road or is located more than 500 feet from any public road.

§ 18:4 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

All junkyards shall, within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Ordinance, obtain a “Junkyard Operation Permit” and a letter stating the junkyard complies with the requirements of this ordinance. Such permit and letter of compliance shall be valid until March 1 of the following calendar year. A written request for reinspection, accompanied by a re-inspection fee as provided in the Jasper County Fee Schedule, must be submitted to the office of the DSR no later than January 15 of each successive year. The DSR, or his designee, shall then inspect the premises, notify the Junkyard operator of any corrections that need to be made, and issue the “Junkyard Operation Permit” and letter of compliance after completion of any required corrections.

No person shall establish, enlarge, or operate a junkyard after the effective date of this ordinance without first complying with the provisions set forth herein.