

Can I build a new garage so my equipment is stored indoors?

Building a new garage may be an option for you. Please reach out to the Inspection Department at 269-983-1212 or inspections@sjcity.com to get more information before any work takes place.

Can I sleep in the camper? Can my guests?

No, campers and other similar equipment cannot be occupied when parked or stored on your property.

Can my equipment be hooked up to electric, sewer, water, or gas services?

No, equipment cannot be hooked up to any utility services.

Is it ok that my equipment does not have a valid license plate?

No, equipment parked or stored must be in compliance with all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Can my contractor leave their trailer in my driveway?

If an active building permit has been issued for work on the property, the contractor's equipment may be parked on the driveway while work is underway.

Should I tell the City I have equipment parked or stored on my property?

No, there is no need to inform the City.

What happens if I do not comply with the regulations?

When a violation is found, City staff will send a letter, identifying the issue and a date for compliance. If the issue is not resolved, additional action will be taken, up to and including the issuance of a civil infraction.

Can I park a boat or camper on the street or in a public lot?

No, equipment may not be parked on a City street, alley or in City-owned public parking lots.

What is the process for getting an exception or variance?

There are no processes or permits available to grant exceptions to the rules.

Where can I go to learn more?

The relevant regulations can be found in Section 18.2.11.C.3 of the City's Zoning Ordinance, available on the city website.

Section 2.3 of the City's Zoning Ordinance provides definitions for Recreational Vehicles, Lot lines, and the different types of Yards.

For more information, visit www.sjcity.com and enter "recreational vehicle" in the search bar, or contact us at 269-983-1212 or inspections@sjcity.com.

GUIDE TO PARKING & STORAGE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND SIMILAR EQUIPMENT



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Does the City have rules regarding the parking or storage of boats, campers or similar items?

Section 18.2.11.C.3 of the Zoning Ordinance regulates the outdoor parking or storage of "equipment" such as boats, personal watercraft, recreational vehicles (campers), off-road recreational vehicles, and trailers in residential zoning districts (R1, R2 and R3).

The ordinance restricts open parking or storage of this equipment as follows:

- 1. Less than 48 hours:** Equipment is allowed on any hard surface on the property for up to 48 hours.
- 2. Greater than 48 hours:** Equipment can be parked or stored on a hard surface in the Rear Yard a minimum of five feet from the Side and Rear Lot lines. Alternatively, equipment can be parked in a garage or shed.
- 3. Occupancy & Connection:** Equipment cannot be occupied or connected to electric, sewer, water, or gas services.

Is there a limit to the number of pieces of equipment I can park or store on my property?

Only one piece of equipment may be parked or stored outdoors on a property at a time. Additional equipment can be stored inside an enclosed structure.

I have a trailer. Do these regulations apply?

Yes, these regulations apply to both open and enclosed trailers.

Can I park or store equipment at a vacant house or property?

No, the parking or storage of equipment must be at an inhabited dwelling and only equipment owned by the resident can be stored on the property.

Can I park or store equipment in my front yard, side yard, or driveway?

Equipment can be parked in the front or side yard on a hard surface (e.g., concrete, asphalt, gravel) for no more than 48 hours. The equipment must be located entirely on private property and cannot project into a public sidewalk, street, or alley.

How can I park or store my equipment for more than 48 hours?

Equipment can be parked or stored for more than 48 hours if it:

1. Is located in the Rear Yard, and
2. Is located a minimum of five feet (5') from the Side and Rear Lot lines, and
3. Is on a hard surface (for example, concrete, asphalt, or gravel.)

Is there a diagram that can help me understand my options?

The following diagram depicts front, side, and rear yards on different property configurations.

