

WATSON TOWNSHP ORDINANCE No. 88-3  
LITTER AND ANTI-BLIGHT ORDINANCE  
ADOPTED: JANUARY 7, 1988  
EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 19, 1988

An ordinance to secure the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Township of Watson, Allegan County, Michigan, by the regulation, prevention, reduction or elimination of litter, junk, trash, rubbish, refuse or debris, and other blight, blighting factors or causes of blight upon public or private property within the Township; to provide criminal penalties and civil remedies for the violation thereof.

WATSON TOWNSHIP  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS;

SECTION I  
TITLE

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Watson Township Litter and Anti-Blight Ordinance.

SECTION II  
PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote and preserve the general health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of Watson Township by regulating and preventing, reducing or eliminating litter, junk, trash, rubbish, refuse and debris, and other blight or potential blight in the township through the prevention or elimination of certain environmental causes of blight or blighting factors which exist or which may in the future exist in the Township.

SECTION III  
DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance, certain terms and words used herein shall have the following meaning:

- a. "Building materials" shall mean lumber, bricks, concrete, cinder blocks, plumbing materials, electrical wiring or equipment, heating ducts or equipment, shingles, motor, concrete or cement, nails, screws, or any other materials used in constructing any structure.
- b. "Litter, junk, trash, rubbish, refuse or debris of any kind" shall mean garbage, scrap and waste materials including metals, boxes, cartons, bottles, cans, rope, rubber, rags, plastic, paper, glass, wood, and wooden skids or pallets or parts therefrom (excluding those stored and used in connection with an industrial or commercial operation on the site), yard trimmings, cut tree branches, appliances, televisions or furniture not usable for the purpose for which they were manufactured, or any other scrap or waste material of any kind, including parts or components of any of the above.  
"Litter, junk, trash, rubbish, refuse or debris of any kind" shall not include firewood stored in an orderly manner, and shall also not include domestic refuse stored for fourteen (14) or fewer days if stored in such a manner as not to become offensive by reason of odors, insects, rodents, pollution, scattering, inadequate or improperly covered containers, the lack of such containers, or the improper depositing of such material into or around such containers, or in such a manner as to otherwise create a nuisance.

WATSON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE No. 88-3  
SECTION III DEFINITIONS continued

- c. "Person" shall mean an individual, firm, corporation, or other entity of any kind.
- d. "Public or private property or waters" includes, but is not limited to, the right-of-way of any road or highway, any body of water or water course, or the shores or beaches thereof, and including the ice above such waters; any park, playground, building, refuge, or conservation or recreation area; and any residential, commercial, industrial, or farm properties or vacant or unimproved lands.
- e. "Compost Pile" shall mean a mixture of various decaying organic substances.

SECTION IV  
REGULATIONS

- a. No person shall dump, deposit, place, throw or leave, or cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing or leaving of litter, junk, trash, rubbish, refuse or debris; of any kind on any public or private property within Watson Township, other than property legally designated and set aside for such purposes, without the consent of the public authority having supervision of public property or the owner of private property.
- b. No owner or occupant of any building or premises within Watson Township shall permit or allow or cause the outdoor storage of litter, junk, trash, rubbish, refuse or debris of any kind except in conformance with the following provisions:
  - (1) Such material does not include garbage or other putrescible liquids or solids, is screened from the view of all adjacent properties and abutting public or private rights-of-way, and is being stored only for not more than 14 days or any other lesser period which would cause the same to be odoriferous or a breeding place for insects or rodents.
  - (2) Such material constitutes a compost pile, as defined in Section III of this Ordinance, and does not constitute a nuisance or annoyance to adjoining property owners or occupants.
  - (3) Such material is located in a duly licensed and properly zoned junk yard, salvage yard, or landfill where such uses or operations are legally authorized under the Watson Township Zoning Ordinance.
  - (4) Such material, in the case of scrap wood, block, brick, iron or metal material, is neatly stacked in the rear yard of an occupied premises, is in compliance with all applicable township fire code and other ordinance requirements, and does not exceed 2,000 cubic feet in area.
  - (5) Such material is being stored pursuant to a special permit obtained for a period of not to exceed 45 days from the Township Supervisor or such other officer or official as the Township Board may designate, to be granted only in special hardship cases beyond the control of the applicant where special or peculiar circumstances exist and where no adjoining property owner is adversely affected thereby, and where the spirit and purpose of this ordinance are still observed.
- c. No person shall drive or move any vehicle upon any public street or roadway unless such vehicle is so constructed, loaded and covered as to prevent its contents from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle. The registered owner of any vehicle who knowingly permits the operator of or passenger in the vehicle to use the vehicle in a manner which violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed to be aiding, assisting, or abetting such violation.

WATSON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE No. 88-3  
SECTION IV REGULATIONS continued

- d. No person shall maintain or allow to be maintained upon any property in Watson Township owned, leased, rented or occupied or possessed by such person, any of the following uses or activities which are hereby determined to be causes of blight or blighting factors which, if allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods and threaten the public health, safety and welfare:
- (1) The parking, storage or accumulation of non-motorized vehicles or conveyances not usable for the purposes for which they were manufactured, or parts or components thereof.
  - (2) The outdoor storage or accumulation of appliances, televisions or furniture, or parts or components thereof.
  - (3) The parking or storage of mobile homes not meeting the minimum standards for inhabitation by humans.
  - (4) The parking, storage or accumulation of trailers or watercraft not usable for the purposes for which they were manufactured, including parts or components thereof.
  - (5) The storage or accumulation of building materials outside of a completely enclosed building in any area for a period in excess of fourteen (14) days; provided that this restriction shall not apply to the following:
    - i. Usable building materials used for a legally operated business.
    - ii. Usable building materials stored on the site of property for which a valid building permit has been issued by the appropriate Township building official and where said materials are intended for use in connection with such construction.
    - iii. Usable building materials neatly stored in the rear yard of an occupied premise, provided such outdoor storage is screened from the view of all adjacent properties and abutting public or private rights-of-way and complies with all applicable township fire code and other ordinance requirements.
  - (6) The parking, storage or accumulation of motor vehicles, or parts thereof, contrary to the provisions of the Watson Township Motor Vehicle Storage and Repair Ordinance.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing this Ordinance shall not apply to a use or activity which is licensed or allowed by, and conducted pursuant to, the Solid Waste Management Act, being 1978 Public Act 641, as amended.

WATSON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE No. 88-3

SECTION V  
SANCTIONS AND SCHEDULE OF CIVIL FINES/COSTS

Any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation or governmental entity who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan statute and punishable by civil fines. Unless a different schedule of civil fines is provided for by an applicable ordinance, the civil fines payable to the Bureau upon admissions of responsibility by persons served with municipal ordinance violation notices shall be determined pursuant to the following schedule:

1 <sup>st</sup> violation within a 3-year period*	\$50.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> violation within a 3-year period*	\$125.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> violation within a 3-year period*	\$250.00
4 <sup>th</sup> violation within a 3-year period*	\$400.00

\*determined on the basis of the date of violation (s).

In addition to the above prescribed, costs in the amount of \$10.00 shall be assessed by the Bureau if the fine and costs are paid within 10 days of the date of service of the municipal ordinance violation notice. Otherwise, costs of \$20.00 shall be assessed by the Bureau. (Amended 6-21-2000, Civil Infraction Ordinance No. 2000-2, Section III, Amendments to certain ordinances.)

SECTION VI  
VALIDITY

Should any section, clause or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

SECTION VII  
REPEAL

Any or all previous ordinances enacted to govern blight in Watson township are hereby repealed, but this ordinance shall not be construed to repeal by implication any other ordinance of Watson Township pertaining to the same subject matter.

SECTION VIII  
EFFECTIVE DATE:

This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after publication in a newspaper circulating within Watson Township, Allegan County, Michigan.

Marianne B. Mather  
Clerk, Watson Township