

Parking and storing vehicles on residential property

Excessively large vehicles or an excessive number of vehicles at one house have negative effects on the residential quality of neighborhoods. The *Bloomington Motor Vehicle Ordinance* provides a clear and balanced set of rules for the parking, storage and number of vehicles.

Defining a motor vehicle

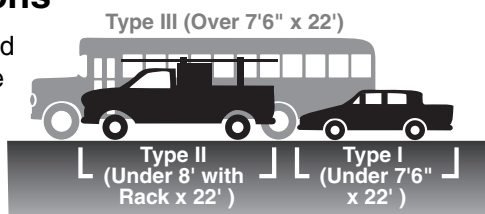
Motor vehicle - any motorized, self-propelled vehicle of a type that may be used to convey persons or materials or to perform a task, other than home maintenance equipment (such as riding lawn mowers or snowblowers) and mobile construction equipment not licensable for public street use.

Motor vehicles include:

- Automobiles.
- Trucks.
- Motorcycles.

Classifications

The parking and storage ordinance classifies motor vehicles other than RVs into three types:



- **Type I:** Less than 22 feet long and seven feet six inches high. "Non-residential vehicles" cannot be Type I.
- **Type II:** A Type I vehicle with a roof attachment that is less than eight feet high. A Type I vehicle with a snow plow attachment during the winter. A taxi or limousine that is not Type III.
- **Type III:** Greater than seven feet six inches high or 22 feet long. All "non-residential vehicles" that are not Type II.

Recreational vehicles (RVs): Class I and II

RVs may include some trailers with RVs stored on or in them, vans or trucks with slide-in campers, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, watercraft and antique or collector cars, off-roadsters and racers. The two classes of RVs are small (Class I) and large (Class II). See the **Recreational Vehicle Ordinance Information Handout** for more information.

Note: Outside of a building you may have one of the following: a) One Class II RV, b) Two Class I RVs or c) one Class I and one Class II RV.

Trailers

When stored **inside** a garage, there is no trailer size or number limit. When parked or stored **outside**, the Ordinance sets these standards:

Size: Trailers cannot exceed a height of six feet or a bed length of eight feet six inches. Trailers exceeding this size cannot be stored outside of the garage.

Number: One utility trailer complying with the size limits can be stored outside a garage.

Location: Trailers cannot be parked in the property setback areas – five feet from the side and 30 feet from the front and rear property lines or closer to the street than the house.

Prohibited vehicles

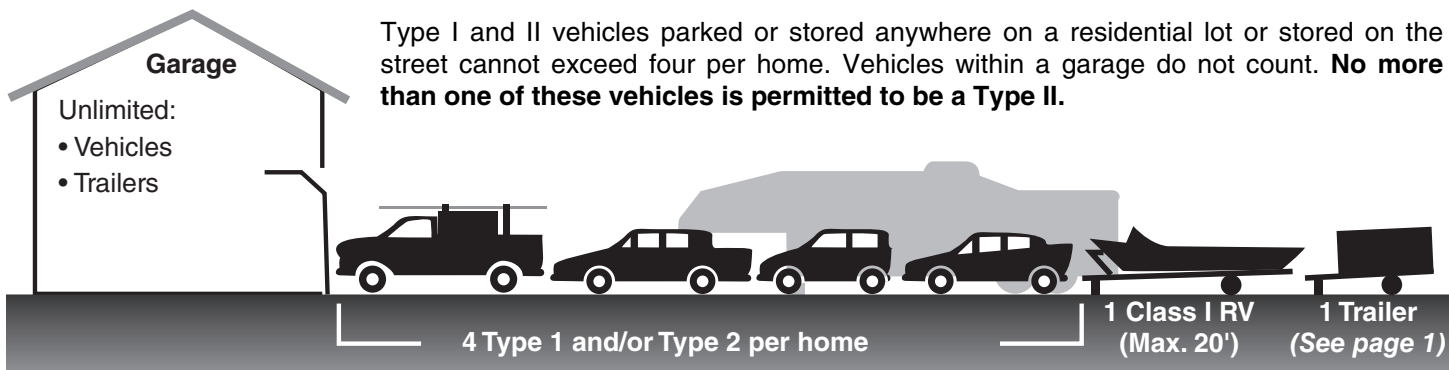
Non-residential vehicles are prohibited from being parked or stored in residential areas, subject to exceptions. Non-residential vehicles include:

- Boom trucks.
- Cargo trucks.
- Dump trucks.
- Farm implements.
- Fire trucks.
- Hearses.
- Semi-trailer tractors.
- Step vans.
- Tank trucks.
- Tow trucks.
- Mobile construction equipment.

In addition, **all vehicles taller than seven feet six inches or longer than 22 feet** are prohibited.

Only one taxicab, limousine or vehicle with a snowplow blade is allowed per property.

Number of vehicles allowed on residential lot



Location

Motor vehicles can be parked or stored:

- In a garage.
- On an approved paved driveway.
- On a driveway not required by ordinance to be paved.

RVs have different parking and storage requirements. See *the **Recreational Vehicle Ordinance Information Handout***.

Call the Environmental Health Division at 952-563-8934 to check with City staff on correct interpretation of ordinances for your situation.

Common questions

Why can't I park my vehicles where I want?

Fire, police and emergency personnel need access to all sides of buildings and desirable residential areas are disrupted by large or a lot of vehicles.

Where can I store my junker?

If a vehicle is not currently licensed and registered or if it cannot be driven under its own power or if it cannot be safely driven or if it is visibly inoperable, it must be stored in a garage.

Call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934 or, to apply for a variance, call Planning at 952-563-8920.

Can prohibited vehicles ever park in a residential zone?

Under some conditions, prohibited motor vehicles may be parked in residential areas.

Exceptions are:

- Vehicles loading, unloading or rendering a service.
- Valid handicapped licensed vehicles.
- Vehicles otherwise prohibited may park on the private driveway portion of a residential lot from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., if the driver is a resident stopping home for lunch or break.

What if I can't park to meet ordinance requirements?

Apply to the City's Planning and Economic Development Division for a variance to vehicle size, number of vehicles or vehicle location if the following conditions are satisfied.

- The variance is necessary for reasonable use of the land or building and is the minimum variance needed to accomplish this purpose.
- Granting the variance will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the *Bloomington City Code* and will not be injurious to the neighborhood or detrimental to public welfare.
- Special conditions or circumstances are not the result of an applicant's actions.
- Non-conforming use of neighboring lands, structures or buildings is not the sole grounds for the variance.