

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

[www.ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us)

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## “ABC’s of City Code for Spring”

There are various City of Norfolk code requirements and terminology, some better known than others. Here is a list of ABC's of the City of Norfolk Code Division that may be useful as we head into spring.

- A- Applications for permits are available at the Norfolk Fire Division located at 701 Koenigstein Avenue. Many permit applications are available on the City's website at [www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/fire/PreventionBureauForms.htm](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/fire/PreventionBureauForms.htm).
- B- Buildings in Norfolk shouldn't be constructed, moved or altered before getting a building permit from the City of Norfolk.
- C- Code provisions are a part of the City ordinances and are in complete form on the website at [www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/citycode](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/citycode).
- D- Decisions by the City of Norfolk's Planning Commission may be appealed to the Norfolk City Council. In the event of an appeal, the City Council holds a public hearing and may reverse, affirm or modify the decision of the Planning Commission.
- E- Electrical code requirements used in the City are explained in the 2014 National Electrical Code as published by the National Fire Protection Association and adopted by the State of Nebraska.
- F- Floodway means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent portion of the flood plain that must be reserved in order to discharge the 100-year flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot at any point assuming equal conveyance reduction outside the channel from the two sides of the flood plain.
- G- Grade refers to the average of the finished ground level at the center of all walls of a building. In case the walls are parallel to and within five feet of a sidewalk, the ground level shall be measured at the sidewalk.
- H- Hazardous substances are any substances or materials that may be detrimental to the health of any person handling or otherwise coming into contact with the material. Contact the Codes Division about the storage of any hazardous substances.
- I- Industrial uses involve the manufacture or processing of products and can be classified as light, general or heavy. There are various zoning districts in Norfolk for each classification.
- J- Junkyards are defined in City Code as any area or parcel of land where accumulation of discarded junk, salvaged or salvageable materials are stored, baled, packed, disassembled or handled in any manner. Junkyards are only allowed in District I-2 and must be completely surrounded by a solid wall or fence that's at least six feet tall.
- K- Kennels are allowed in a private yard as long as they are for keeping of four or less dogs or cats or a combination thereof. Pets shall belong to the owner or occupant of the premises.
- L- Lot lines are lines dividing one lot from a street, alley or another lot.

- M- Modifications of a site plan may be required as a prerequisite for the approval of a permit.
- N- No City permit is required for prefabricated above ground swimming pools, fences under six feet high and swings and other playground equipment accessory to a one or two family dwelling. Additional regulations do apply such as safeguards around pools, electrical requirements and locations of fences.
- O- Off street parking areas are spaces designed, used, required or intended to be used for parking.
- P- Permits for electrical work in a home and business can be issued only to registered electrical contractors, master electricians or homeowners who meet the requirements of City Code Section 6-76.
- Q- Questions about tree ordinances should be directed to John Kouba at 701 Koenigstein Avenue or 844-2060
- R- R-3 Zoning Districts in the City of Norfolk are the Multiple-family Residential District. Allowed in R-3 Districts are single family residential homes, manufactured homes, duplexes, townhouses, multiple-family residentials, churches and schools to name a few.
- S- Site plan reviews are done for all building permit applications and include a review of site plans for compliance with zoning requirements such as setbacks, height limitations and other development regulations.
- T- Temporary signs can be put up for civic, philanthropic, educational or religious organizations for a period of up to one month.
- U- Uninhabitable, unusable or unoccupiable structures as a result of fire, flood, wind, disaster or some other calamity shall be completely repaired within one year of the occurrence or be demolished.
- V- Violating City code may mean redoing a project and/or paying a fine.
- W- Water wells which have been abandoned must be closed and sealed in accordance with the requirements of the City's Water Well Standards and the applicable Natural Resource District guidelines.
- X- eXtensions to existing electrical installations can't be made, attached or connected to any existing wiring where that wiring doesn't conform to the minimum requirements set forth in the City Code.
- Y- Yard front refers to the portion of the yard extending along the full width of a front lot line between side lot lines and from the front lot line to the front building line.
- Z- Zoning districts are areas within the City of Norfolk and its extraterritorial jurisdiction for which regulations governing the use of buildings, structures and premises, the height of buildings and structures, size of yards, and the intensity of use are uniform.