

# HAMPTON VA

## FOR THE RECORD

### Limits on cars parked in front yards begins July 1; driveway grants available May 1

Beginning July 1, 2022, Hampton residents will no longer be able to park on their front lawns if parking is allowed on their street. Neighbors have complained that a yard full of cars is unsightly and lowers values of nearby properties. For the record, no one is being required to install a driveway. The city has grants available to assist people **who don't have driveways** and want to install one, especially those who have limited means. Residents must obtain a permit before installing a driveway. Parking temporarily, such as during flooding, city-permitted event, street sweeping, washing your car, or loading and unloading is allowed.

#### FAQ

**Q: Why did the city make this decision?**

A: This is one of several measures that City Council made after requests from residents and neighborhood associations who want to improve the look of their neighborhoods and boost property values. Other measures limits on inoperable vehicles, clutter and overgrown shrubbery.

**Q: What if there is no on-street parking?**

A: If on-street parking is not permitted on one or both sides of your street, you may park your car/cars on your lawn.

**Q: Which streets don't allow on-street parking?**

A: The rule applies if there is no on-street parking on at least one side of the road. In residential areas, the street should be marked as "No Parking" or "No parking this side." Arterial streets – or main roads – are not marked, but you can also tell because they have only traffic lanes with no designated parking. See the [map](#).

**Q: How do I apply for a grant?**

A: Anyone is eligible, but people with less financial means will get preference. If you are approved for the grant, you will hire and pay a contractor and can ten get reimbursed up to \$2,250. If a curb cut, or apron is required, you may be eligible for additional funds. The application is available at [hampton.gov/noparking](http://hampton.gov/noparking). You can also call the 311Citizen Contact Center (727-8311 from a landline).

**Q: Can I get a grant to enlarge or repave my driveway if I already have one?**

A: No, this grant is for people who do not have any driveway at all.

**Q: Can I park in my side or back yard?**

A: For most people, yes, as long as you are parking behind the plane of the front of your house. However, people who live on a corner lot have two lawns with road frontage. In those cases, any cars on grass must be behind the plane of both house lines.

**Q: Do I have to install a driveway?**

A: No. If you have street parking, you can park there. If you don't have street parking, you can park on your lawn.

**Q: What do I need to know if I want to install a driveway?**

New driveways must obtain a zoning permit prior to installation. Driveways must be made of an "improved surface." That includes concrete, asphalt, pavers designed to support the weight of motor vehicles, rock, gravel, oyster shells, and turf grid systems. A driveway that is a loose surface, such as gravel, must be contained by a border.

Also, the city has a green space rule that limits how much of your front-facing yard you can pave. The amount varies by lot size, from 50% to 75%. However, regardless of lot size, any lot without alley access is allowed a driveway up to 12 feet by 25 feet. You can learn more [here](#).

**Q: What if I am handicapped? Can I get a reserved place on the street in front of my house or be allowed to park on my lawn?**

A: Yes. Exceptions can be made for people who are disabled. Here's how to start that process to determine if you qualify: Call 311 (7270-8311 from a cell or from outside the city) or email [311@hampton.gov](mailto:311@hampton.gov)

**Q: We don't have a curb. I pull off the road as far as I can, but that puts me on the semi-grassy area between the road and the sidewalk. Is that allowed?**

A: If it's stone or gravel, you can park there. You cannot park there if there is grass.

**Q: I have a gravel driveway, but it does not have a border. Is that OK?**

A: Existing gravel driveways are permitted, but any new driveway or expansion to an existing driveway must have a border and obtain a zoning permit.

**Q: How much will a driveway cost?**

A: You will have to ask a contractor for your specific situation and the material you want. The city is working with an approximate cost for the least-expensive driveway – with two ribbons of gravel one car length – at about \$2,250. The city's grant program was based on that amount.

**Q: Do I need a curb cut, or do I just keep hopping the curb?**

A: That's called an apron. It is required in some places, but not all. If most of the homes in your area have curb cuts, you are required. If you are accepted for the grant, and an apron is required, you are eligible for additional reimbursement.

**Q: I have more than one car, and there isn't always enough parking on my street. What am I supposed to do?**

A: That answer is going to vary based on your lot and home size. The size of driveway you can build varies from lot to lot. You are allowed to park in your side yard (behind the front plane of the house) and back yard, unless you live on a corner and those front on the street. Or you can park farther away on the street and walk farther.

**Q: My street isn't marked for no parking, but it is too narrow. I'm afraid my car will get hit. What am I supposed to do?**

A: Call 311 and describe your issue and leave your address. They will arrange for someone to investigate.

*Posted May 3, 2022*