

Be Informed

This brochure has been developed to explain some of St. Petersburg's housing and neighborhood standards. Our first priority is to help residents voluntarily comply with these standards. If you receive a violation notice, we recommend that you take positive action to resolve any violations. Also contact your Codes Investigator with any questions about violations and what must be done to correct them. The following additional brochures are available:



- Address Numbers
- Certificate of Inspection Program
- Commercial Equipment Parking
- Emergency Fire Exits
- Illegal or Abandoned Dwelling Units
- Inoperative Motor Vehicles
- Junk, Rubbish, Outdoor Storage
- Legal Premises Agent for Out of Town Owners
- Maintenance of Buildings
- Painting to Protect Your Home
- Parking in Residential Areas
- Permits Required
- Prohibited Business
- Rodent and Insect Control
- Visibility Triangle Requirements
- Unsafe/Unfit Structures
- Yard (Vegetation) Maintenance Standards

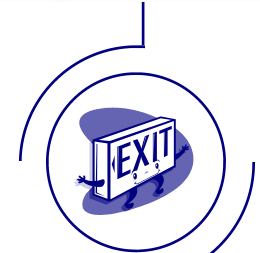


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Emergency Fire Exits

Codes
Compliance Assistance
A Neighborhood Service



Emergency Fire Exits

This information may save your life or the life of a loved one. Home fires claim lives when people are unable to exit the home and escape deadly flames and smoke.

Fire and smoke can make escape options impassable, so all household members should have more than one easy means to escape in case of fire.

Fires that occur at night when the family is asleep are most deadly. If you are asleep, you might not be alerted to the outbreak of a fire until escape routes through the house are filled with smoke or flames.

Very often, the only available exit in these situations is through a bedroom window.

For young children or persons with mobility impairment, rescue from the outside of the home through a bedroom window may be their only chance for survival.

Since one of the most important emergency exits is in sleeping rooms, the minimum code requires that sleeping rooms have at least two options for emergency exit.

One option is usually the bedroom door.

The second required bedroom exit must allow immediate egress from the sleeping room to the outside, and this is usually a window or door. The outside window or door must be capable of being opened from the inside without the use of separate tools or keys.

Burglar Bars

Some home owners install burglar bars to protect their homes and families from crime, but they actually create a life safety hazard if they have the wrong kind of burglar bar installed on sleeping rooms.

For example, bars that are permanently installed and cannot be opened, or those that can only be opened with the use of a key or special tool may be impossible to operate in the panic of an extreme emergency. They are unsafe and do not meet the City code requirements.

When windows with burglar bars are the only means of escape to the outside from a sleeping room, at least one of the windows must be equipped with a safe "quick-release" burglar bar that can be opened from the inside without the use of any special key or tools.



Fire and smoke can make escape options impassable, so all household members should have more than one easy means to escape during a fire.



Permits & Contractors

A permit is required to install burglar bars in both residential and commercial buildings. Once installed under a permit, minor repairs or alterations of the bars can be done without obtaining another permit.

A licensed contractor must perform the installation except in the case of an owner-occupied home when the owner may obtain the permit and install the bars.

Eligible contractors include licensed construction contractors and licensed specialty contractors, such as door, window or ornamental metal installers.