

# 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



## Codes Compliance Assistance

Municipal Services Center Building—3rd Floor  
One 4th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Phone: 727-893-7373

Fax: 727-893-5558

Visit us on the Web at [www.stpete.org/codes.htm](http://www.stpete.org/codes.htm)

Revised 9/09/2008

# Visibility Triangle Requirements

**Codes**  
Compliance Assistance  
A Neighborhood Service



# Visibility Triangle Requirements



**P**edestrians and motorists passing through traffic intersections must see clearly around corners in order to avoid collisions. Clear visibility at intersections of streets, alleys, driveways and sidewalks is a matter of life safety.

The ability to see around corners can be impaired by the growth of trees, plants, vehicle parking and even fence installations. Visibility triangle rules require that certain areas of the private property and the abutting City right of way be maintained clear of visibility obstructions.

In the measured visibility triangle, the following regulations apply:

- **No structures** can be placed except fences, walls or berms not higher than 3 feet;
- **No motor vehicle**, trailer or other equipment is allowed to park, stand or stop;
- **No vegetation** can be planted or allowed to grow **higher than 3 feet**, except for one tree on the private property and two trees in the right-of-way with any tree having **branches no lower than 8 feet**.

All height measurements are taken from the road surface immediately adjacent to the triangle area.

**A**ccording to the regulations, to determine which areas must be kept clear triangles are measured as follows:

- At **street intersections**, a triangle with 45 foot sides starting at the corner where two curbs lines intersect and extending out away from this corner intersection, but still following the curb lines;
- At **intersections of alleys or driveways with streets**, a triangle with 10 foot sides extending from the intersection of the curb line but following the edge of the alley or driveway;
- At **intersections of alleys or driveways with sidewalks**, a triangle with 5 foot sides extending from the intersection formed using the edge of the sidewalk furthest from the street and the edge of the alley or driveway.

Here is another way to describe the measurement at street intersections:

Measure by locating a "point" of intersection formed by extending curb lines toward the intersection until they meet. From that point, the different lengths of 5, 10 or 45 feet are measured away from the intersection along each edge (or leg) of the triangle to create two more "end points". The triangle is closed by connecting the last two end points to each other.

**R**egardless of visibility triangle regulations, property owners must take responsibility to trim trees, plants and grass on their property and in the City right-of-way that abuts their property in order to comply with all City codes. Also, in the right of way, property owners must obtain a minor easement and permit from the City's Engineering Department to build any structures of any height (for example a fence).

**A**s of April 17, 1998, any lawfully constructed structure (any structure built with a City building permit and having received a final, approved inspection) is grand fathered and does not have to comply with visibility triangle regulations. Government signs and sign posts, fire hydrants, benches, traffic control devices, utility poles and utility control devices are exempt.

**T**wo types of zoning districts, DC and CCT-2, are not subject to the visibility triangle regulations.

This is because many of the existing buildings were allowed to be built years ago, partially in the triangle area, and also because there are large numbers of traffic-signal controlled intersections in these areas which do not require the same degree of visibility.