

CITY OF GRAND HAVEN

Community Development Department

All Rental Housing located in the City should be registered and inspected to ensure compliance with all applicable codes. A primary goal of the program is to provide assurance to residents that rental housing continues to be safe and desirable. Decent and affordable housing will strengthen the quality of life for all by generating a sense of community. Local pride will be enhanced and strong neighborhood bonds will be established for the betterment of everyone involved.

Important Tips for Renters:

Landlords are not the only responsible party. The City also depends upon all tenants and any occupants to respect both the property in which they reside and the community at large.

- Garbage accumulation and disposal – normally the obligation is on the persons residing on the premises (tenants) to properly dispose of their own garbage, but the property owner shall provide *at least* an appropriate container.
- Junked vehicles are prohibited by City Code. The owner of the vehicle will be fined regardless of who that may be.
- Smoke alarms must remain installed; the tenant can be fined for intentional disablement of any alarm. If a smoke alarm has become a nuisance (too close to the kitchen and it alerts every time you cook) then we can have the smoke alarm moved to a more suitable location.
- Overcrowding of any residential rental property is strictly prohibited and enforcement of such violation will be immediate.
- Sleeping in the basement or any other room that fails to provide proper egress is prohibited. All sleeping areas (bedrooms) must be provided with a means of escape that does not require extraordinary effort. Abuse of this restriction becomes more prevalent with difficult economic times. Citizens rely on downsizing their living arrangements but must remain mindful of the dangers that can result. Having NO EGRESS is a serious FIRE HAZARD.
- Infestation or harboring of any rodents/ insects falls primarily on those who reside in the dwelling units (tenants). The responsibility of maintaining a safe and sanitary living arrangement is a cooperative effort between the property owners and tenants.