

Unsightly properties

Well-maintained properties make Darebin a better place to live.

Keeping our properties neat and tidy can have many positive impacts on the local area like:

- decreased incidences of graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- reducing safety issues such as fire hazards
- increased property values.

A property becomes unsightly when it is no longer clean and free of things like:

- overgrown vegetation
- excessive rubbish
- neglected or disused equipment, machinery, vehicles or goods
- partially completed, demolished or run-down buildings
- graffiti.

A property can also be unsightly when it creates a danger or risk to you, your neighbours or the wider community.

Our approach to unsightly properties

Our priority is to work with the community to address the issue of unsightly properties. If for any reason you are having trouble maintaining your property, please contact us so we can work with you to take a proactive approach.

Reporting an unsightly property

When a property becomes unsightly it impacts others, especially those living nearby. The majority of unsightly property issues raised with us come from concerned neighbours and community members.

If you see an unsightly property you can report it to Council by:

✓ calling **8470 8888**

✓ emailing **mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au**



Local law

The local law requires property owners or occupiers to maintain their properties and prevent them from becoming unsightly.

The process we follow regarding unsightly properties is outlined below:

Step 1 - Council is informed about, or discovers a possible unsightly property.

Step 2 - Council officers then inspect the property where we look out for things like potential health or safety risks including fire hazards and vermin issues as well as visual concerns where people outside the property are able to see the unsightly material.

Step 3 - If the property is found to be unsightly, Council will then issue the owner or occupier, or both, with a Notice to Comply. This Notice outlines the reasons why the property is deemed unsightly and provides an opportunity for the situation to be rectified.

Step 4 - If the issue is not fixed by the nominated date or alternative arrangements are not made, Council may, for safety reasons, organise a contractor to undertake works to clear the land and correct the issue.



Possible penalties

Although our first priority is to work with you, the local law enables Council to take further action if required. If a property remains unsightly and unsafe we may issue a fine plus the costs of any works carried out by a contractor.

\$ Fine for unsightly properties - \$1,000



Tips and hints

Things you can do to avoid your property from becoming unsightly include:

- ✓ regularly maintaining your garden and lawn
- ✓ storing goods out of sight in your garage or shed
- ✓ putting your waste and recycling out for Council's kerbside collection or booking a free hard waste collection
- ✓ taking unwanted goods to the Darebin Resource and Recovery Centre.

For more information contact our Local Laws team:

 **8470 8888**

 **www.darebin.vic.gov.au**

CITY OF DAREBIN

274 Gower Street, Preston
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072
T 8470 8888 **F** 8470 8877
E mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
darebin.vic.gov.au



National Relay Service

TTY dial 133 677 or
Speak & Listen
1300 555 727
or **iprelay.com.au**
then enter
03 8470 8888



Speak your language

T 8470 8470
العربية Italiano
繁體中文 Македонски
Ελληνικά Soomalii
हिंदी Tiếng Việt