



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE COUNTY ELIMINATE PUBLIC NUISANCES?

When a public nuisance (as defined in this brochure) occurs in your neighborhood, file a complaint with Harris County Public Health (HCPH) Environmental Public Health division. If the nuisance remains unabated 30 days after a county abatement notice has been received by the owner or occupant of the property in question, the investigator may ask your assistance in identifying the owner/operator and acting as a witness in court. In addition to criminal prosecution sought by HCPH, you may file a civil suit in the county or district courts.

## WAYS TO FILE A COMPLAINT

1. Call: 713 274-6300
2. Online: [publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Services-Programs/Services/NeighborhoodNuisance](https://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Services-Programs/Services/NeighborhoodNuisance)



### All these items are needed to file the complaint:

The correct address of the complaint site (name of street, street number, nearby cross street).

The legal description of the property in question, if possible (name of subdivision, lot number, block number).

The name and address of the owner and/or name of the occupant of the property in question, if possible.

## CONTACT US

Harris County Public Health  
Environmental Public Health  
2221 West Loop South, Ste. 100  
Houston, TX 77027  
Phone: 713-274-6300

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
For more information:  
[www.hcphtx.org/eph](http://www.hcphtx.org/eph)



## NEIGHBORHOOD NUISANCE ABATEMENT ACT



*Protecting Neighborhoods  
in Unincorporated Areas  
of Harris County*



Harris County  
**Public Health**  
Building a Healthy Community



## WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD NUISANCE ABATEMENT ACT (NNAA)?

The NNAA is a law (Chapter 343 of the Texas Health and Safety Code) designed to abate public nuisances in unincorporated areas of Texas counties.

### What constitutes a “public nuisance”?

Public nuisances are grouped into seven (7) categories:

**1**

Keeping, storing or accumulating trash on property in a neighborhood unless the trash is entirely contained in an enclosed container.

**2**

Keeping, storing, or collecting trash/junk or any unused, discarded or abandoned object, including newspapers, vehicles, refrigerators, stoves, furniture, tires and cans on property in a neighborhood for 10 days or more, unless the trash or object is completely enclosed within a building or is not visible from a public street.

**3**

Maintaining property in a manner that leads to an unsanitary condition likely to attract mosquitoes, rodents, vermin or disease-carrying pests.

**4**

Allowing weeds to grow on developed property in a neighborhood if such weeds are located within 300 feet of another residence or commercial business. Weeds are defined as all rank and uncultivated vegetable growth that is over 36 inches in height or, creates an unsanitary condition or become a home for rodents, vermin or any other disease-carrying pests, regardless of height.

**5**

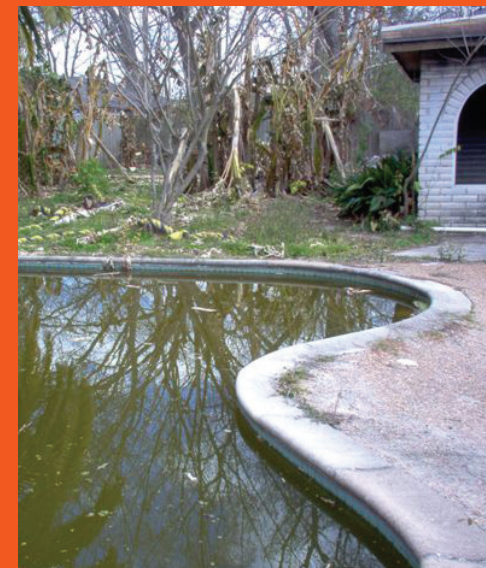
Maintaining a building in a manner that is structurally unsafe or creates a hazard to health, safety or public well-being because of poor maintenance, unsanitary condition, damage, fire hazard, or abandonment.

**6**

Maintaining a swimming pool on any property in a neighborhood that is not protected with a fence that is at least four feet high and that has a latched gate that cannot be opened by a child, or protected by a cover over the entire swimming pool that cannot be removed by a child.

**7**

Maintaining a swimming pool on abandoned and unoccupied property that is not protected by a pool cover over the entire pool that cannot be removed by a child, and a fence at least four feet high that has a latched and locked gate.



## DO THE SEVEN (7) LISTED CATEGORIES OF PUBLIC NUISANCES APPLY TO ANY LOCATION WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF HARRIS COUNTY?

No. Categories 1, 2, 4 & 6 apply only to neighborhoods. A neighborhood is defined as a recorded, platted subdivision or any property next to a recorded, platted subdivision and within 300 feet of the platted subdivision.

## WHEN DOES A NUISANCE BECOME AN OFFENSE?

A person commits an offense if the nuisance remains unabated after the 30th day from which a person receives a notice from a county official, agent or employee to abate the nuisance. Each subsequent day a violation occurs is a separate offense.