

Welcome to Norristown!

## Municipal Rules and Regulations for Renters

**You can find lots of information about Norristown by visiting our website at [www.norristown.org](http://www.norristown.org).**

Being a responsible tenant and neighbor means following the rules

### Trash Collection:

1. Trash put out for collection must be placed in a trash container (no larger than 32 gallons) with a secure lid. **NO LOOSE BAGS OF TRASH. Limit four containers.**
2. Don't place trash cans out for pick up more than 18 hours prior to your regularly scheduled collection time. Your landlord has provided you with a trash pick-up schedule. If you still have questions call J.P. Mascaro at 1-800-432-1616.
3. Don't leave trash cans out more than 18 hours after collection.
4. Find a place to store your trash cans on your property – not in the alley or on the sidewalk.
5. Pick up any loose trash around your cans.
6. Yard waste. Place out for collection during the second week of the month, **ONE DAY AFTER** your regular pick up. Place yard waste in a biodegradable bag or container.
7. Bulk items like furniture, mattresses and carpets will be picked up on your regular collection day. **LIMIT OF ONE BULK ITEM PER PICK UP!**

### Recycling:

Norristown provides single-stream recycling, which means all of these materials can be placed in the same recycling bin:

1. Metals: Aluminum cans (beer and soda), aluminum foil and foil plates, metal lids and cans.
2. Glass: glass bottles and jars (food and drink only).
3. Plastic containers: Bottles and containers labeled #1 through #7 (soda, water, milk, juice, liquor, shampoo, detergent, salad dressing, yogurt, etc)
4. Mixed paper and cardboard: newspaper, magazines, catalogues, junk mail, envelopes, file folders, corrugated boxes, cereal boxes, gift boxes, paper bags, and phone books.

You can use any container for a recycle bin. Just place a recycle sticker on an old trash can or other container. Stickers are available at Municipal Hall, 235 East Airy Street, at the reception desk. You can also pick up a recycle bin at the same location.

Recycling will reduce the amount of trash you place out for pick up and it is the right thing to do for Norristown!

Questions about Trash and Recycling? Call J.P. Mascaro at 1-800-432-1616.

#### Lawn and Property Maintenance:

Keep your property and lawn area neat and clean! This means keeping your grass cut so it is no higher than eight inches, removing weeds, and picking up and disposing of trash and debris on your yard and sidewalk.

#### Snow Removal:

After the snow falls you have 24 hours to remove any snow or ice from you sidewalk. You must clear a path at least three-feet wide.

Don't shovel snow into the street! Remove the snow to your yard or pile it next to your house.

Don't reserve a parking spot by placing chairs or other objects in the street. This is illegal and it prevents Norristown's public works crews from effectively plowing the snow.

#### Bed Bugs:

**What are bed bugs?** Bed bugs are small, flat insects that feed on the blood of sleeping people and animals. They are reddish-brown in color, wingless, and about the size of an apple seed. Infestations of bed bugs usually occur around or near where people sleep. They can live in apartments, shelters, rooming houses, hotels, nursing homes, and dorm rooms.

**How do bed bugs get in a home?** Bed bugs often come into a home by catching a ride with people as they travel from place to place. Bed bugs can travel in luggage and overnight bags. Used furniture and bedding is another source. Never pick up a used furniture item or mattress off the street or in the alley and take it home with you – it could be carrying bed bugs.

**How do I recognize a bed bug problem?** One of the easiest ways to identify a bed bug infestation is by bite marks that appear on the face, neck, arms, hands and any other body parts. These bite marks may take as long as 14 days to appear. Other signs include a sweet, rusty smell in the room and small, rusty blood stains on bed sheets.

**Where are bed bugs found?** Bed bugs hide in cracks, crevices and seams during the day and then come out at night to feed. They prefer narrow crevices. They will also hide in the crack and crevices of furniture and mattresses created by folds, buttons and cording. It is important to try to eliminate these

cracks and crevices. Cracks between wood, like the sections of a bed frame, should be filled with caulking material. Vacuum all upholstery – including the undersides – of mattresses and pillows. Professional grade steam cleaners can also be effective.

**Pesticides.** Treating for bed bugs with pesticides should be done by a professional – do not attempt to do this yourself. Pest-management companies use special chemicals not available to the public. Products available from the hardware or grocery store are ineffective against bed bugs and could make the problem worse.

If you think you have a bed bug infestation....

1. Contact your landlord immediately.
2. Eliminate the bed bugs' hiding places.
3. Hire a professional pest-management company and contact your landlord immediately.

If necessary, call the Code Enforcement Department at 610-270-0441. The Municipality will assist you and your landlord to address the problem.

Smoke Detectors:

Your rental unit is equipped with smoke detectors to alert you to a fire. Periodically test the smoke detectors to make sure they are functioning and replace the batteries at least once per year. Smoke detectors are required on each floor and in each bedroom.

Fire Extinguishers:

Your rental unit must have at least one approved fire extinguisher mounted on a wall. The fire extinguisher must be rated no less than 30a40bc. The rating can be found on the label of the extinguisher. All rental unit extinguishers must be inspected by your landlord annually.

Flammable Fuels:

Never store, operate or repair equipment, tools or vehicles (weed-wackers, portable cooking devices, motor scooters) that operate on flammable fuel inside your rental unit.

Combustible Materials:

Keep your rental unit free from accumulations of newspapers, clothing, cardboard boxes or any other material that can catch fire (combustible materials). Do not store combustible materials in exits, boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms.

### Overcrowding:

Your rental unit is meant to comfortably accommodate a reasonable number of tenants. It is unlawful to crowd more people into your unit than can be accommodated. If you have so many people living in your unit that they must sleep on sofas or the floor, then your unit is overcrowded. Overcrowding is against the law. If your landlord is encouraging you to live in an overcrowded unit, please call the Norristown Code Enforcement Department at 610-270-0441.

### Cooking on Balconies and Porches:

Cooking with a BBQ grill or other open flame cooking device on a porch or balcony can start a fire. It is strictly forbidden by Municipal ordinance. In addition, never do open flame cooking of any kind within 10 feet of the walls or other structures of your home.

### Outdoor Furniture:

Placing indoor furniture, such as stuffed chairs and sofas, on your porch or next to your house for use is prohibited because of the risk that someone could set a fire using the furniture.

### Important Information for Dog Owners:

Here is some important information to make sure you and your dog are obeying Norristown law:

1. If you are walking your dog, it must be on a leash. Do not allow your dog to run free through the neighborhood. Leashes cannot be longer than six feet.
2. If at home outdoors, your dog must be secured behind a fence.
3. Don't let your dog bark outside so that it disturbs your neighbors.
4. Clean up after your dog. Pick up and dispose of dog feces either in the toilet or in your trash.

Finally, make sure your dog is licensed with Montgomery County (visit their website at [Montcopa.org](http://Montcopa.org) for more information) and keep up with rabies and other vaccinations.

If there is a problem dog in your neighborhood, call the county dispatch non-emergency number at 610-272-1111.

### Police, Fire and Medical Emergencies - Call 9-1-1:

9-1-1 is only to be used in emergency situations. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, the fire department or an ambulance. If you are ever in doubt of whether a situation is an emergency you should call 9-1-1. It's better to be safe and let the 9-1-1 call taker determine if you need emergency assistance.

Never say "nine eleven", since there is no eleven on the telephone keypad. Always say 9-1-1.

Always call 9-1-1 from a safe place. If there is a fire in the house, get out first, then call 9-1-1. If there is an intruder in the house, hide or get out to call 9-1-1 from a safe place.

Know your address – have it posted near the telephone.

If you are not sure if you have an emergency, call 9-1-1 and explain your problem to the 9-1-1 dispatcher.

If you call 9-1-1 by accident, please don't hang up. When the dispatcher answers, explain that you called 9-1-1 by mistake and that you do not have an emergency.

Driving a Vehicle in Norristown - Legally:

- Drivers must have a valid PA Drivers License or a valid license from any other state or commonwealth of the United States; or
- Resident aliens, tourists and visitors are required to have a stamped passport with a current visa and a valid home license from their home country. The United Nations Convention of Road Traffic (Geneva 1949) and The Inter-American Convention of 1943 govern this requirement.

Parking:

Some neighborhoods in Norristown have designated residential parking zones. To park your car in these locations you will need a special parking permit. You can obtain a sticker at the Norristown Police Department, located at the rear of the Municipal Hall, 235 East Airy Street.

Street Cleaning:

Once a week Norristown Public Works crews sweep every street in Norristown. There are signs on every street indicating when parking is prohibited to allow the crews to do their job. Please note the signs on your street and move your car when required.