



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

ARCHITECTURAL POLICIES

Adopted 6/20/2024

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TOP TEN LIST

The following are some of the most important items to remember to maintain and enhance our property values in Savaan Community. Additionally, this list will help assist you in planning any exterior changes to your property. Please remember all exterior changes/improvements must be approved in writing prior to any changes being made.

Fences

- Please remember to get written approval prior to any installation or changes. Please see specifics on page 13.

Signage

- No signs are permitted in windows, with the exception of alarm, pet safety and No Soliciting signs of reasonable size and position. Signs expressing support of or opposition to political candidates are allowed per constraints outlined in the Community Covenants and on the last page of this document. Homemade signs in yards are prohibited.

Dog Waste

- Maintenance of the yard to keep it free from offensive odors is required.
- Please note all homeowners are required to pickup after their pets, even on their own property. Please be courteous!

Garbage Cans

- Trash storage needs to be screened from the road. Please see specifics regarding screening on page 12.

Toys/Basketball Goals/Play Equipment

- No items (toys, bikes, garden equipment, trash containers, chairs, wood, recycling bins, etc.) may be left in front or side yards or on porches when not in use. At no time should any items ever be left in a sidewalk.
- Basketball goals need to be erect at all times.

Parking

- Parking is prohibited on the grass
- Parking that blocks a sidewalk or bike lane is specifically prohibited at all times.
- Street parking is discouraged. If you have space in your driveway, please move your cars off the street.

Satellite Dishes

- Satellite dishes, no more than one meter (30") in diameter, with hidden cable.
- Preferred placement of the dish is on the rear roof. If placement is necessary on the side of the yard, screening with plant material and/or painting the dish to match the background is required.
- Dishes placed in the front yard are prohibited, unless written architectural approval is received.

Yard Maintenance

- Grass should be kept no more than 6" high. Edging and pruning shall be completed on a regular basis; in the summer this means at least once every two weeks for mowing, edging, and pruning. Driveway and sidewalk cracks shall be kept clear of grass and weeds. The designated lawn area shall be fully covered with grass. Any brown or bare patches shall be repaired during the spring or fall seeding season. See additional Town requirements on page 15.

Garage Doors

- All garage doors should be kept in the closed position unless it is in use.

INTRODUCTION

In a planned community such as Savaan, the question naturally arises as how to maintain a harmonious, quality development as the community matures. The following policies attempt to provide a meeting ground between private interests and the broader interest of the community.

The Declaration of Covenants runs with the land and is binding with all homeowners and should be fully understood. Please retain these additional Policies as part of your permanent papers. You should make these Policies available to any renters of your home. In the event you need additional copies of this document or The Declaration of Covenants for the community, please contact the management company.

The fact that each homeowner is subject to these Covenants should assure all homeowners that the standards of design quality shall be maintained, enhancing the community's overall environment and protecting property values.

The rules, responsibilities and procedures outlined in these Policies have been approved by the Board of Directors (BOD), in compliance with the community's Declaration of Covenants.

The intent of these policies are:

- To insure quiet enjoyment for the residents;
- To minimize problems and expenses for the association;
- And to provide for the architectural integrity of the neighborhood.

The cooperation of each owner will be mutually beneficial.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The Declarations establish an Architectural Review Committee, from now on referred to as the ARC, to be comprised of three (3) representatives to rule on architectural submittals. The ARC is charged with conducting the review of all applications for exterior changes and with rendering a decision to the applicant **within 30 days**. The ARC will respond in writing with either an approval, approval with conditions, disapproval or a request for more information on the project. More information may be required for the ARC to make an informed decision. It is the Homeowner's responsibility to provide that information in a timely manner. If the ARC fails to render a decision (after receiving all required information) in the allotted 30 days, the approval is not granted.

The ARC may from time to time publish and promulgate architectural standard bulletins, which shall be fair, reasonable, and uniformly applied. The ARC shall be responsive to technological advances or general changes in architectural designs and materials and related conditions in future years and use its best efforts to balance the equities between matters of taste and design (on the one hand) and use of private property (on the other hand). Such bulletins shall supplement the Declaration and are incorporated herein by reference.

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE PROCESS

The Declaration of Covenants requires prior written approval for any improvements to an owner's lot. Therefore, do not commit labor or materials until you have received written approval. When in doubt, an application should be submitted.

1. Owner submits to the Architectural Review Committee, in care of the management firm, an Application for Architectural Improvement. **Please note the Architectural Review Committee has thirty (30) days to review the application.** Should nothing be received within 30 days, please call to follow up. The review period does not start until Community Association's management company receives the completed application, which includes all required materials, and the 30 days resets each time additional information is submitted in support of the application. Complete applications will be considered on individual merit, using these documented standards as a basis for decision-making.

****Out of courtesy, we request you inform your neighbors of your proposed improvement(s). This signature provides evidence that each neighbor has had the opportunity to submit any objections to the ARC for consideration. Strictly, no application will be considered without the signatures of all immediate neighbors.**

Note: when attaching to a neighbor's fence, written approval must be obtained from the neighbor.

2. The application, noted with the date of receipt by the manager, is turned over to the Architectural Review Committee within two working days, provided all information necessary for review is received. (Management will make a cursory review of the application and request of owner any additional information needed. The committee may still require additional information, as detailed in 4d, below. The **30-day timetable** begins when the application is complete for review.)
3. The committee will act on the application within **30 calendar days** from receipt. **In most cases the owner will receive a response within one week.**
4. The owner will be notified by management of all final decisions, either:
 - a. **APPROVAL:** The application is approved as submitted.
 - b. **APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS:** The overall proposal is accepted, but with certain specified changes, limitations, or requirements that must be followed.
 - c. **DISAPPROVAL:** The application is denied. The owner can appeal to the Architectural Review Committee within 15 business days. Further escalation may require the involvement of the Board of Directors. *(see Appeal Process section for more details)*
 - d. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED:** The Committee has determined that additional information is needed for appropriate review of the application. In this case, the entire process begins again once management receives the information. The owner should follow the same submission procedure. The Architectural Review Committee will act swiftly on all re-submissions.
5. **Architectural Review Committee inspection:** The Architectural Review Committee reserves the right to visit your lot and inspect the improvement. This will be done for two specific reasons:
 - a. to ensure that the application details were followed and to note problems encountered which might help other residents on similar projects; and
 - b. to learn any "pointers" that other residents may employ in more easily completing an improvement project.
6. Once work has begun on an improvement, it must be completed within 90 days. Applications are valid for 1 year from the date of approval.

**** Please note:** Many design changes require a permit and the Town and/or County may not issue a permit without the written approval of the ARC. Please plan in advance. **THE ARC HAS 30 DAYS TO REVIEW ALL REQUESTS, AFTER ALL THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION IS SUBMITTED.** It is **strongly suggested** that the Town and/or County be contacted to determine what permits or approvals are required from a Town/County Ordinance before submitting to ARC for approval. Architectural Review Committee approval does not substitute for approval by the Town. It is the homeowner's responsibility to acquire appropriate approvals, permits, etc. from the Town.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The ARC evaluates each application on the individual merits of the application and the standards listed below:

Validity of Concept - The basic idea of the exterior change must be sound and appropriate to its surroundings.

Landscape and Environment - The exterior change must not unnecessarily destroy the natural landscape or the achieved man-made environment.

Relationship of Structures and Adjoining Property - The proposed change should relate harmoniously among its surroundings and to existing buildings and terrain that have a visual relationship to the change.

Protection of Neighbors - The interest of neighboring owners should be protected by making provisions for such matters as surface water drainage, sound and sight buffers, preservation of views, light and air, and other aspects of design, which may have substantial effects on neighboring property. For example, fences may obstruct views, breezes or access to neighboring property. The ARC should consider the various and appropriate criteria and exercise discretion in determining which of these criteria will be governing in each specific application.

Design Compatibility - The proposed change must be compatible with the design characteristics of the applicant's home and the general neighborhood setting. Compatibility is defined as harmony in style, scale, materials, color and construction details.

- a. Scale: The three-dimensional size of the proposed change must relate satisfactorily to adjacent structures and their surroundings.
- b. Materials: Continuity is established by use of the same or compatible materials as used in the existing home. Siding materials and shingles must match existing structure.
- c. Color: Color may be used to soften or intensify visual impact.

Workmanship - The quality of work must be equal to or exceed that of any existing structure. Poor practices may cause the owner problems and may be visually objectionable to others. For example, a wooden fence not properly treated and maintained may in a short period start to decay and become unsightly to the owner and neighboring property owners.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

If the applicant disagrees with the decision of the Committee in its review or inspection, the process is noted for an appeal:

1. Within 15 business days after receipt of a notice of disapproval, the homeowner must file a written appeal with the Architectural Review Committee at the address of contact for the community.
2. Upon receipt of the appeal, the ARC may contact the homeowner and schedule a review of any further information relating to the request and appeal.
3. Should the ARC determine that the disapproval remain, the homeowner may request (within 7 days) that the appeal be forwarded to the Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of the ARC to forward any correspondence and pertinent information to the BOD at this time.
4. The Board of Directors shall then establish the date and the time that the appeal will be heard. Normally, this will be made at the next scheduled Board meeting. To reverse an Architectural Review Committee decision, requires a majority vote of the BOD.
5. No work may progress during this appeal process time period.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

An exterior change made without the required approval of the ARC constitutes a violation of the Declaration of Covenants and Community Policies. **A violation may require removal or modification of the work at the expense of the property owner and may result in substantial fines.**

When a violation is determined to have occurred, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The ARC will investigate any reported violation and attempt to bring the owner into compliance. Homeowners will be notified in writing of the violation and are expected to bring the violation into compliance within thirty (30) days.
2. Should the owner fail to act upon the recommendations for corrections, the Committee shall submit the matter to the Board of Directors.
3. The homeowner shall be invited to a hearing with the BOD where the homeowner will have opportunity to be heard and present evidence. Failure to appear shall result in a fine beginning to accrue five (5) days after the scheduled hearing date. Of course, if the violation were brought back into compliance prior to the hearing, no hearing would be necessary.
4. After the hearing, the BOD shall respond to the homeowner with a decision in writing within five (5) days. Any penalties or costs relating to the violation (and the date from which the accrual shall begin) shall be noted in the letter from the BOD.

Fines: Fines will be levied on a daily basis of up to \$100 per day, per violation, until the violation is rectified. The North Carolina Community Act passed in January of 1999, allows planned residential communities the ability to uphold standards that will protect and insure homeowners of maintained property values, with regard to holding all property owners accountable for abiding by the existing covenants.

Fees: A violation may also result in payment of damages incurred by the Association in having the work removed or modified, as well as a fine assessed by the Association. Attorneys' fees, court costs, site assessment will all be incorporated into the fine process.

**** Please remember Owners are responsible for their renters.**

EXPLANATION OF STANDARDS

The Standards that follow are the procedures and policies applied by the ARC to assist the Association and its members in the design review process. It is hoped that these Standards will serve as a positive tool to assist in the full and free use of each homeowner's property in a manner that is consistent with the aesthetic and harmonious development to the community.

There are three major categories of items for specific home improvement policies:

BLANKET APPROVALS

COMMON IMPROVEMENTS

APPEARANCE STANDARDS

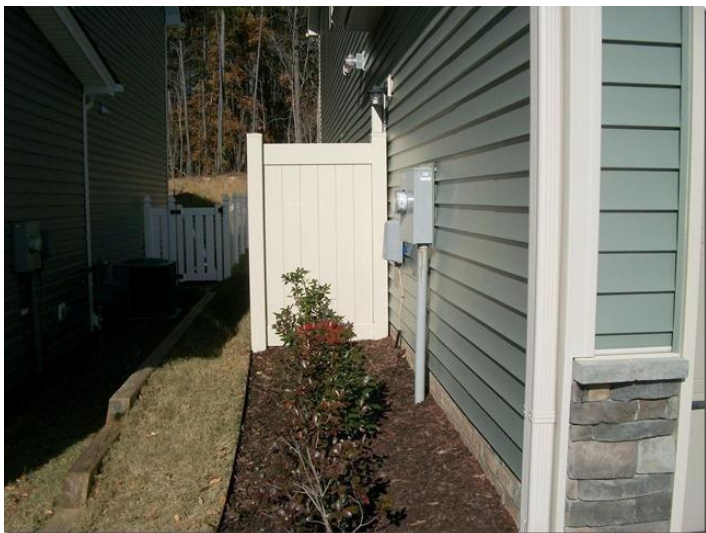
These three are very important to you because they identify which improvements are permitted and how approvals can be secured. Items not specifically mentioned here require approval.

BLANKET APPROVALS

Items in this category do **not** require approval, *provided the policies mentioned are followed.*

- Plants, shrubs and flowers planted within three feet of the front of your house, not to grow higher than the lowest portion of the windows.
- Bedding borders, if constructed of common landscaping borders not to exceed 8 inches in height.
- Plantings of flowers and shrubs around trees. No plantings of flowers, shrubs, trees or yard decorations are allowed in the Buffer Zone even if the Buffer is behind your home and out of public view. This is not your property.
- Low voltage lighting.
- Hose caddies affixed to the home or enclosed in appropriate container.
- Outdoor holiday decorations, displayed up to five (5) weeks prior to and three (3) week after the holiday.
- Vegetable gardening in rear yards, provided they are not noticeable from the street, do not exceed allowed fence heights or grow through to the neighbor's yard.
- Removal of trees that are less than six inches (6") in diameter and less than four feet (4') above the ground. All other trees must have the approval of the ARC and neighbors' signatures. Any dead tree may be removed without approval as long as the dead tree or shrub is NOT located in the Buffer Zone. Dead trees or shrub in the buffer zone, and/or Association property should be reported to management.
- Lawn and patio furniture, barbecue equipment, toys, bikes, if kept in good repair. Barbecue equipment, toys, bikes, etc., must be stored within the rear area or garage when not in use.
- Attic turbines, if they are mounted on the rear of the house roof, extend no higher than the roof peak, and are no more than 12" above the roof surface.
- Satellite Dishes
 - No more than one meter (30") in diameter, with hidden cable.
 - Preferred placement of the dish is on the rear roof. If placement is necessary on the side of the yard, screening with plant material and/or painting the dish to match the background is required.
 - Dishes placed on poles in the front yard are prohibited, unless written architectural approval is received.
 - Limit one (1) per home
- Front Storm Doors
 - White or the same color as your existing trim;
 - Of the "full view" design;
 - Of anodized aluminum (including baked-on enamel);
 - Unadorned.
- Back Storm Doors
 - White or the same color as existing trim;

- Of anodized aluminum (including baked-on enamel).
- Exterior Painting / Maintenance
 - Provided that material and color remains the same, no approval is required for standard maintenance of the house exterior.
- Hot Tubs
 - Hot tubs may not be visible from the street;
 - Must meet all City, County, and State requirements (enclosed, fencing, plumbing, electricity, etc.).
- Play Equipment / Treehouses
 - All play equipment should be located in the rear of the house, not the side, front yard or porches.
 - Play equipment must be located at least 3 feet from property lines;
- Basketball Hoops
 - Basketball hoops are to be placed on the rear third (toward the house) of the driveway or parking pad;
 - Hoops should be mounted on a single pole with a backboard that is predominately white, clear or gray;
 - Basketball hoops are prohibited from being mounted directly on the house;
 - Basketball hoops may be cemented into the ground with ARC approval;
 - One hoop per house;
 - It is required that players be courteous and not hinder a neighbor's property during normal play;
 - Hoops are not to be placed such that basketball is played in the street;
 - Moveable basketball hoops are to be located on the driveway, away from the street end when not in use;
 - Basketball hoops need to be erect at all times.
 - Be conscientious of neighbors' landscaping and avoid damaging neighbors plantings.
- Trash Containers
 - Unless it is the night before trash pick-up day or trash pick-up day trash containers need to be stored so they are not noticeable from the street; otherwise, they are in violation of the community policies. For the avoidance of doubt, all receptacles shall not be brought to the curb any earlier than Monday at 12:00pm and must be stored and screened from view no later than Wednesday at 12:00pm.
 - Trash containers may be stored on the side of the home; however the cans still need to be screened from the street and preferably neighboring properties. Below is an example of an owner very tastefully screening their trash cans with vinyl fence that matches their home. This may also be done with a wood fence and/or plant material. Placing a trash can behind a bush is not proper screening.



COMMON IMPROVEMENTS

Items in this category require approval. *An application must be submitted and meet these policies.* Approval is not necessarily limited to constraints listed here, but is much more likely to be given for:

Grading

- Major changes to the topography of a lot are required to be approved by the ARC prior to being started.
- Drainage and water flow patterns must be taken into consideration prior to the start of any grading.
- Grade changes are never permitted where the change in grade would impact an immediate neighboring property.

** The Association, its Board of Directors, nor the Architectural Review Committee accepts any liability for any damage caused by such grading, whether or not the committee approved the request.

Exterior Color and Maintenance (Changes)

- You must specify the new material and/or color you wish to use; include a color sample from the store.

Drives and Parking Areas

- Proposed changes in drives or parking pad additions must be submitted to the ARC;
- Gravel driveways or parking areas will not be permitted.

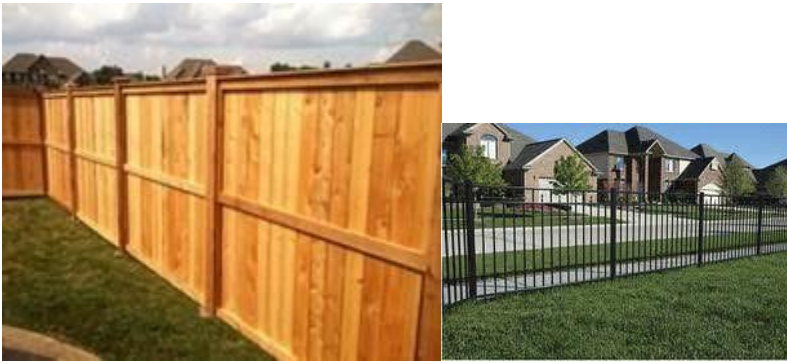
Pools

- No above-ground swimming pools shall be permitted in the Subdivision (exception for hot tubs);
- Requests for in-ground swimming pools shall be considered.

Fences/Walls

- Fence material shall either be pressure treated wood or black aluminum. Wooden fences must be treated with and stained with Banyan Brown. Painting is not allowed.
- Fences must enclose all or part of the backyard and can start 1/3 of the length of the house from the front of the house (variations will be considered for specific lot shapes and/or items you are intending to screen with the fence);
- No wire, plastic, or chain-link fences (including dog enclosures) shall be considered;
- Construction will consist of vertical members (pickets) supported on horizontal members (rails) with the pickets on the outward side of the fence. The top edge of wooden or vinyl fences may be scalloped either up or down with ARC approval as seen in pictures, below. Fence must follow the natural grade of land;
- Required fence height is a minimum of 4ft (42" at lowest point) and maximum of 6ft (at the highest point);
- Fences must be maintained and kept in good repair;
- Fences shall be a minimum 2" from the ground level in order to allow for proper drainage and run off from home site to home site. Posts may not be placed in swales.

The 2 Acceptable Fence Styles to Follow:



Storage Sheds

- No larger in size than 10 x 16;
- Constructed of wood; no aluminum sheds allowed;
- A suitably constructed floor system or foundation is required;
- They are placed on the property behind your home so the shed cannot be seen from the road when standing directly in front of house;
- They must be at least 3 feet from the neighboring property;
- Siding material must be similar in color and composition to the home;
- Roof must have similar pitch, similar materials, and similar color as that of the home.

Decks/Screened Enclosures/Outdoor Living Areas

- A deck should not extend past the side of the house;
- All decks should be on the rear of the house. No side or front decks are permitted;
- Decks may not be painted;
- They will pose no drainage problems for you or your neighbors;
- The materials to be used are designed specifically for patio and/or deck designs;
- Screened enclosures must not be visible from the street;
- All decks, patios, gazebos and screened porches must blend in with the natural terrain.

Sidewalks & Walkway Extensions

- Proposed changes and/or additions of sidewalk or walkway extensions must be approved by the ARC.
- Homeowners are not allowed to add sidewalks or walkway extensions in any common area.
- If the material used is concrete, it must be identical to the color and texture of other concrete on the property (patios, driveways, steps, etc). If using paving stones of any form the homeowner must submit a color to the ARC that will blend in naturally with the colors of the home.
- Gravel walkways will not be permitted.

NOTE: Prior to April 2023, Savaan homeowners with an installed sidewalk or walkway extension on her/his personal property has been ARC documented and will be grandfathered in as exceptions , i.e., *do not* need to change their sidewalk and they *will not* receive an ARC fine.

Lamps & Landscape Lighting

- One walkway/entrance light on post is allowed, not to exceed 7 feet in height to base of light fixture;
- The post shall be of metal painted black;
- The lamp design should be similar to existing house exterior lights;
- Entrance lighting on ARC-approved walls on the sides of driveway entrances will be considered providing they match existing light fixtures. *Note that low voltage lighting does not need ARC approval.

** The Association requests that all exterior lamps be on from dusk to dawn. It is the homeowner's responsibility to change out bulbs, etc.

Windows

- Window unit air conditioners are prohibited;
- Fans in windows are discouraged;
- Appropriate window dressings are required (sheets, newspapers, blankets, etc. are prohibited).

APPEARANCE STANDARDS/MAINTENANCE

- Paint and stain must be maintained in uniform and good repair (with no peeling, chipping, cracking, or discoloration) on the trim or siding.
- Lawns must be well kept with uniform ground coverage. Grass shall be kept no more than 6" high. Edging and pruning shall be completed on a regular basis (in the summer, this means at least once every two weeks). Driveway and sidewalk cracks shall be kept clear of grass and weeds. The designated lawn area shall be fully covered with grass. Any brown or bare patches shall be repaired during the spring or fall seeding season. Dead trees and shrubs must be removed and replaced with plantings of similar size and shape.

The owners of the property and their agents, heirs or assigns shall be responsible for the installation, preservation and maintenance of all plantings and physical features shown on this plan. The owners shall be responsible for annual maintenance of the vegetation to include but not limited to:

Lawn Area: The lawn area will be mowed 40 times per year to provide a neat and uniformly finished lawn. For areas inaccessible to mowers, a string trimmer will be used to cut grass to same height as mower. Curb, sidewalk and bed edges will be mechanically edged 15 times, or more per year, during the growing season. All debris will be removed from turf prior to mowing and from turf and pavement areas following edging. The entire lawn will be core aerified in the fall. Seeding and fertilization will be performed in conjunction with aerification. The lawn area will be overseeded with a bermudagrass at a rate of 75 pounds per acre. The turf will be fertilized three times during the year (March, September and November). A slow release nitrogen product will be used at a rate of 1-2 pounds of nitrogen per 100 square feet. A pre-emergent crabgrass control will be applied to the lawn when soil temperatures reach 48 degrees.

Plant Beds and Small Ornamental Trees: All plant beds will be sprayed and weeded by hand to maintain them free of weeds at all times. All shrubs will be fertilized as required as required with a slow release fertilizer at a rate according to plant type. All trees will be fertilized by deep root feeding with a slow release fertilizer designed to feed for two years. All shrubs and trees will be pruned with hand pruners to encourage growth and remove dead material. Replace pine straw mulch annually. Formal hedges will be trimmed to an invert 'V' shape to encourage low limb structure and dense growth.

Leaves: All leaves will be removed from the lawn areas weekly and four times a year from the plant beds. Leaves may be placed in adjacent wooded areas.

Natural Areas: Natural areas will be maintained free of brush and weeds within the first ten feet of the natural area.

- No items (toys, bikes, garden equipment, trash containers, chairs, wood, recycling bins, etc.) may be left in front or side yards or on porches when not in use. Basketball goals need to be erect at all times.
- No parking vehicles on lawns or common areas. Parking is not allowed at mailbox areas other than for a quick stop to pick up mail. Long term or recurring parking by residents in visitor or community lots is not allowed. Parking over the sidewalk is prohibited, including sidewalks that go through driveways. Parking in the street overnight is discouraged. Please do not park within 10 feet of stop signs, street signs and fire hydrants. For events such as Garage Sales or parties, it is the responsibility of the homeowner hosting the event to inform neighbors and make provisions to prevent damage to the neighbors' yards.

** For safety and aesthetic purposes your driveway should be full of cars if you are parking on the street.

- Mobile house trailers (whether on or off wheels) and recreational vehicles are prohibited.
- No commercial truck, commercial bus, or other commercial vehicle of any kind may be parked on the street.
- No portion of the property may be used for the repair of automobiles requiring over 48 hours to repair.

- No portion of the properties can be used to tie up dogs or for breeding. No doghouses should be visible from the street. Excessive dog noise will be treated as a noise ordinance violation. Maintenance of the yard to keep it free from offensive odors is required. Please note all homeowners are required to pickup after their pets, and dogs are to be on a leash at all times. There is a Town Ordinance that enforces this guideline. Please be courteous!
- Properties should be free of any debris.
- No clotheslines may be erected or maintained on any lot.
- Vegetable gardens are allowed in backyards only.
- Trash storage needs to be screened from the road.
- Signs may be placed in the homeowner's yard for the express purpose of selling the property, in accordance with the Governing Documents. Political signs may be placed on the homeowner's property expressing support or opposition to a candidate or referendum issue, not 45 days before the election and must be removed within 7 days following the election. Security, burglar alarm, dog fence, or No Soliciting signs shall be located discreetly in the front yard of the house. No signage may be located in the common area, with the exception of an open house or community event. Yard/Garage Sale signs are permitted the week prior to the event then need to be removed, promptly, by the day after the event. Temporary signage during the period of home improvements is permitted. Signs must be removed as soon as the project is completed. No signs are permitted in windows, except for appropriately sized alarm, pet and No Soliciting signs. Homemade signs of substandard quality are prohibited.

**** These standards are in addition to any listed in the Declaration of Covenants.**