

Title 17F Construction Standards

Chapter 17F.070 Existing Building and Conservation Code

Section 17F.070.470 Compliance with Order

- A. The order under this chapter specifies the action to be taken by the owner and establishes a time or timeframe for compliance.
- B. So long as a building is boarded up, or unfit, substandard, or abandoned and subject to the building official hearing process, the owner must pay an annual fee as provided in [SMC 8.02.067](#). This fee is lienable under [SMC 17F.070.500](#). Otherwise, the owner must cause the building to be occupied in compliance with all applicable code requirements. However, it is the intent of this chapter that boarding a dangerous building is a temporary solution to imminent danger and a building may not remain boarded up longer than two years unless an extension of time is part of a plan approved by the building official or hearing examiner detailing the future rehabilitation, sale, demolition, or other disposition of the building.
 1. A property remaining boarded up longer than two years may be subject to demolition by order of the building official.
 2. The building official shall order the owner of any premises upon which is located any structure, which in the building official's judgment is so dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, unsanitary, or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy, and that it is unreasonable to repair the structure, to demolish and remove such structure; or if such structure is capable of being made safe by repairs, to repair and make safe and sanitary or to demolish and remove at the owner's option; or where there has been a cessation of normal construction of any structure for a period of more than two years, to demolish and remove such structure. (2006 International Property Maintenance Code section 110.1).
 3. When the building is of sufficient value to be repairable, the building official may recommend action by the City to obtain the property through eminent domain, pursuant to the provisions of the chapter 35.80A Revised Code of Washington.

4. As an alternative to demolition, when appropriate, the building official may issue an order to refer substandard, abandoned, unfit, or nuisance properties to Superior Court in pursuit of a receivership order.
- C. The owner of a substandard building must repair and rehabilitate it so as to bring it into compliance with the standards of this chapter, at a minimum, or into compliance with the new work and replacement requirements of the building and associated codes provided in [chapters 17F.030 through 17F.060 SMC](#) and [chapters 17F.080 through 17F.100 SMC](#) if applicable by their terms. When warranted by the nature and extent of the repairs and the type of occupancy, the order may require the building to be vacated and secured during rehabilitation.
- D. The owner of an unfit building must cause it to be vacated, secured against entry, demolished, and the land filled and cleared. When warranted by the location of the building and the nature of the defects the order may allow demolition to be delayed upon such conditions, such as clearing and securing, as will safeguard health and safety.
- E. Should the owner of an unfit building propose a written undertaking, acceptable to the building official or the hearing examiner, giving assurance and security that the building can be safely rehabilitated in a reasonable time, then the order can direct rehabilitation according to the undertaking, in lieu of demolition. Upon the owner's failure to accomplish his undertaking, the building official or hearing examiner may summarily order demolition or receivership, or when the building is of sufficient value to be repairable, the building official may recommend action by the City to obtain the property through eminent domain, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 35.80A Revised Code of Washington.
- F. An order respecting a building under this chapter may require the owner to take specified action in regard to the surrounding ground whereby nuisance, such as dry vegetation or other combustible accumulations, or toxic, septic, or unsafe substances, is abated.

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