



# Junk Vehicle Information Sheet

## How Thurston County Handles Junk Vehicles

The Code Compliance division responds to junk-vehicle situations based on whether the requester wants to remove a junk vehicle from their own property or wants an investigation into a vehicle elsewhere in the neighborhood.

## How to Remove a Junk Vehicle from Your Property

### IF YOU OWN IT

1. Get the vehicle title, or if it's lost, call the state Department of Licensing at (360) 902-3600.
2. Find a hulk hauler service by calling a towing or wrecking company near your home and ask if the company is licensed to remove junk vehicles. Depending on the scrap metal market value and the type of vehicle you have, the hauler may or may not charge to haul your vehicle (some may pay you). Call around for the best deal. The original copy of your title will go with the hauler; however, you may want to make copies for your own records.

### IF YOU DON'T OWN IT

1. If you don't have a title or court order showing ownership, find a Junk Vehicle Inspector to examine the car. The inspector will give you a "Junk Vehicle Verification Notification and Affidavit" (JVVNA) form to fill out and ask you to notify the legal owner. For vehicle inspections on private property in unincorporated Thurston County, submit the county's online [Junk Vehicle Affidavit Request](#). For junk vehicles in city limits, contact the city (see list of numbers on page 2).
2. After inspection, the inspector will mail you the JVVNA form. Follow the instructions on the back of the form to notify the legal owner. (The form has a section for cases where the legal owner can't be found.) See the [JVVNA form](#) (PDF). An inspector will give you a paper copy.
3. If the vehicle remains unclaimed more than 15 days after you notify the owner, you may dispose of the vehicle by calling a hulk hauler or wrecking yard directly.

## FAQs - Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is a Junk Vehicle?

In Thurston County, junk vehicles (also called "hulk" vehicles) are defined as any inoperable, abandoned, disassembled, or extensively damaged vehicle with two or more of the following conditions:

- Built up debris, moss, weeds, on, in, under, around vehicle that obstructs use.
- Damaged frame.
- More than one missing or shattered window or windshield.
- More than one inoperable or missing headlight or taillight.
- More than one flat tire.
- A missing or inoperable engine or transmission.
- A missing wheel, tire, body panel, door, hood, other obvious body part, not including a bumper.
- A missing license plate.
- A license plate that has been invalid for more than 60 days.

- A missing driver-side mirror.
- Evidence that the vehicle has not been moved in at least 60 days.

**2. What is not considered a junk vehicle?**

The definition above does not include special-interest vehicles, vehicles undergoing active restoration, farm machinery, or prominently displayed ornamental machinery.

**3. What can the county government do about a junk vehicle on my neighbor's property?**

Enforcement of the county junk vehicle law is done on a complaint basis. After a complaint is received, a compliance officer visits a home or location and determines if the vehicle qualifies as "junk/hulk." The property owner is notified and required to remove the vehicle. If the property owner fails to remove the vehicle(s), a civil infraction may be issued.

**4. Who do I call about a junk vehicle on a public road?**

On a state route or highway, call the Washington State Patrol at (360) 586-1999. On a county-owned street, call the Thurston County Communications Center (TCOMM) at (360) 704-2740. If the vehicle is on a city-owned street, call the city.

**5. Who do I contact?**

If the vehicle is located in unincorporated Thurston County outside of city limits, please email us at [junkvehicle@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:junkvehicle@co.thurston.wa.us).

If the vehicle is in a city, call

- City of Lacey: (360) 491-5642
- City of Tumwater: (360) 754-4200
- City of Yelm: (360) 458-3100
- City of Tenino: (360) 264-2626
- Town of Rainier: (360) 446-2245