

Substandard Structures

A substandard structure is any building that does not meet the standards or specifications established in the Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Mechanical Codes, and endanger the life, health and safety of the general public, or the people living in or working around such buildings. Substandard structures can be anything from single family to multi-family residences; commercial buildings from grocery stores to office units; and could even include that old shed out in the back yard.

Examples of Substandard Structures:



Sometimes the defects that categorize or push a home into being a substandard structure are easy to spot

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... and sometimes they aren't.

Something as simple as missing paint on the front fascia board made this house a violation of the building code, hence, making it substandard.





With a collapsed roof and several busted windows, this former house was easy to categorize as a substandard structure .

Busted sheetrock and collapsing ceilings were among the *many* problems that caused this house to be categorized as substandard.



When houses are abandoned and left to deteriorate they are tagged (as seen in middle photo) and boarded up, which can sometimes costs several thousand dollars -- all at taxpayer expense.

Working Together

When property owners and the City work together, amazing things can happen. Just look what happens when an owner takes responsibility for their property. It went from **this**:



to this:



So what could happen to those who own substandard structures?

Property owners are required to keep their buildings in good condition. When they don't, a report is filed and an officer investigates. If the officer finds violations on the property, they will make a report listing all the violations and send it to the property owner. If the property owner does not fix the problems in a certain amount of time, they may have to go before the [Building Standards Commission](#), which has the authority to decide to tear down the building.