

City of Tuscola

A Guide to regulations on Construction Sites

The following is a partial summary of ordinances, regulations, and code requirements governing construction site activities. This guide is intended as a convenient summary; it does not contain all applicable laws and regulations, and certain language has been condensed or paraphrased. Please refer to the appropriate ordinance, code, statute, or other law as necessary.

- **Weed control** needs to be maintained during construction. Weeds and grass should be kept less than 12 inches in height. *Chapter 93.31*
- **Basements and Swimming Pools shall be protected** by a barrier to keep people and animals from falling into the excavated area. For basements, control shall be kept in place until the foundation walls are in place and backfilled, and the first floor is framed and covered sufficiently to eliminate a falling hazard, including guards around basement stair openings. For swimming pools, control shall be kept in place until the required permanent *Chapter 93.01 (I), 52.09, BOCA 421.10*
- **Erosion of soil** on construction sites shall be controlled. No soil should be allowed to leave the property, and under no condition should it be allowed to run off onto sidewalks, streets, or into storm sewers. *Chapter 51.21 (D), 154.42 (B)*. A General Storm Water NPDES Permit for Constructions Activities may be required by the IEPA. Check with the IEPA for regulations or go to their web-site <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/storm-water/construction.html>
- **Side walks and boulevards, city right-of-way, and streets** shall be kept clean and clear of all construction materials, dirt, debris, equipment and vehicles. When city property, streets etc., must be blocked, or barricaded for some reason, arrangements shall be made with the City Services Foreman before blocking any city sidewalk, boulevard, right-of-way, or street. *Chapter 52, 158.0, BOCA Chapter 33*
- **Sidewalks in business areas** shall be kept clear during construction, or arrangements made with the City Building Inspector before construction. This may include walk through scaffolding and pedestrian protection or barricading the sidewalk. Side walks, curbs, streetlights, trees, and utility fixtures on city right-of way must be safeguarded during construction activities. In the downtown area, brick sidewalks must be protected by tarp, plywood, or protected walk-through scaffolding or covers to be approved by the city Building Inspector, anytime there exists the potential for falling debris or equipment from construction activities. *Chapter 52, 52.20, 158.0, BOCA Chapter 33*
- **Curbs are city property** - If removal of curbs is required for drives, they must be replaced with a flow apron with a cross-section that matches the curb apron, and approved by the city. *Chapter 52.35*
- **Any excavation on city right-of-way** by any non-utility company or individual must be approved by the city before the excavation, and must be barricaded and protected, and must be restored. *Chapter 93.01 (I), 52.05, 52.08, 52.09, 51.15, 3304*
- **Burning of any construction material** in the City of Tuscola is prohibited. *Chapter 91.05, State Laws*
- **All trash, debris, waste, and construction materials** must be disposed of in an approved manner, and must be kept from encroaching on neighboring property, or city right-of-way, by any mechanism, including the wind. On-site dumpsters shall be obtained ONLY from the waste hauler under contract with the city. *Chapter 136.29, 136.33, BOCA Chapter 33, State Laws*
- **Sump pump drainage** must be directly to the city storm sewer. No indirect, over the ground flow is allowed. *Chapter 51.20 (B)*
- **No hazardous waste**, including but not limited to, gasoline, paint thinner, oil, or acids shall be discharged either directly or indirectly into the sanitary or storm sewer. *Chapter 51.21*
- **Trees** on city right-of-way shall be protected during construction. *Chapter 96*
 - It is the responsibility of the contractor on any construction project to protect all public trees within the construction zone from damage due to construction activities.
 - Fencing or barricades with marking tape shall be erected in a perimeter at a distance of at least 5' for small trees (6" diameter or less) and at least 10' for all other trees.
 - Soil, excavated material, gravel, crushed aggregate, concrete, or any type of construction materials may not be stored or deposited at the base of trees or within the drip line of trees on public right-of-way.
 - Installation of underground utilities shall be at a depth of not less than 24" within the drip line of a City-owned tree. Where possible, the installation should be performed as far from the trunk of the tree as possible.
 - Where surface excavation is necessary within the drip line of a tree, the roots exposed by the excavation shall be cleanly cut with a chain saw, hand saw, lopper, or similar method. Ripping, tearing, chopping, or shredding of roots with a backhoe, axe, hatchet, pick axe, or machete is not allowed.
 - If removal of a City-owned tree is necessitated by construction activities, the contractor is responsible for obtaining a permit for the removal, and for performing the removal. The City will not perform convenience removals.