

# Basic Requirements and Best Practices for Contractors and Builders



Building or renovating a home in Mississauga today most often involves construction in the City's established neighborhoods. Some construction practices, as well as personal habits of construction works, can be disruptive to neighborhoods.

Understanding the limits of the laws that homeowners, contractors and building must work within can help keep the peace in neighborhoods while construction is underway

Common sense can also help to make sure that you, your staff and subcontractors remain welcome while you are a part of the neighborhood. For example, take care not to trespass on neighboring properties, or damage landscaping, driveways, sidewalks or roads in the neighborhood.

## Common sense - Understanding Neighborhoods

There are laws and bylaws that must be followed at any construction site in Mississauga. And common sense can help any project run more smoothly.

In some cases, the neighbours may be concerned about the project even before you arrive. They may not be looking forward to disruption in the neighborhood that construction can cause, or they may not like the size or look of the project that's planned. There are practices that you, your subcontractors and delivery people can follow to help address some neighborhood concerns.

**Demolition and construction activities are not allowed until permits, when required, are issued. Remember to post your permit where everyone can see it – it's an Ontario Building Code requirement.**

### Practice good communication

Ask you client if the neighbors are aware of when the work will start. Advising neighbors will make sure they have a chance to prepare and that they aren't surprised to see construction equipment arrive.

### Be family friendly

When on a job site, language and behavior should be appropriate for all ages.

### Provide access to restrooms

Make sure there are arrangements to use existing facilities, or have portable toilets on site. Portable facilities should be located away from regularly travelled public areas and neighboring homes.

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## Onsite – Know the Law

The Ontario Building Code, provincial safety legislation, and City [bylaws](#) help to protect the health, safety and quality of life of everyone in and around the jobsite. They will also help to make sure neighbors are not significantly impacted while the project is underway.

## Construction Fences

Keep your site safe. Make sure you have a fence around the construction site before you start work. See the Building Bylaw for more information about fences

## Garbage

Make sure the site is clean after construction is finished for the day.

## Noise

Make sure any noise from the project is within the City's construction noise limits. In most residential areas, construction noise is allowed between 7am and 7pm every day except Sunday. Construction noise is not allowed on Sundays or statutory holidays. There are also extended quiet hours in areas near hospitals and nursing homes.

## Parking and Traffic

Make sure that all construction vehicles stay within speed limits, and don't block roads and driveways for extended periods of time, especially in the morning and late afternoon. Check the Ontario Ministry of Labour's website for flag person and other safety-related requirements at construction sites

## Trees

Ensure trees and other types of shrubs and plants are protected from construction activity where possible. Neighbors value the natural elements of their neighborhoods. As well, there are limits to how many larger trees can be removed on a property in any calendar year. For more information about tree removal, please visit the [private tree protection](#) webpage.

## Mud and Dust

Try to control the amount of dust in the air and mud tracking from the site as much as possible. Use the existing driveway, or lay gravel on the entrance and exist for construction vehicles

## Water and Drainage

If water is collecting on the site, drain the area and check that the grading of the site has not been altered. [Stagnant water](#), or water that remains more than 24 hours after it rains, must be drained. It can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes and a health hazard in the summer months.

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## Time to Complete Work

Try to stay on schedule. Neighbors will appreciate a project that wraps up on time. Projects must be completed in a reasonable amount of time to ensure neighborhoods are not impacted for too long.

## Deal with Neighbors Responsibly

Ensure you, your trades and subcontractors are operating within all construction-related laws and regulations, and promptly refer anyone with concerns to the City. Concerns can be report at 905 615 4311 from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday.

## Information and Contacts:

### Book an Inspection:

[www.mississauga.ca/inspections](http://www.mississauga.ca/inspections)

905 896 5660 building, plumbing & heating inspections

905 896 5908 fire inspections

### Ontario Building Code

[www.ontario.ca/buildingcode](http://www.ontario.ca/buildingcode)

416 585 6666

### Ministry of Labour

[www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/topics/construction.php](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/topics/construction.php)

### By-laws

[www.mississauga.ca/bylaws](http://www.mississauga.ca/bylaws)

This document provides a basic guide to help homeowners and builders avoid neighbourhood conflicts during construction. **It is not legal advice.**