



## Town of Florence, Wisconsin

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### Did You Know. . .Florence Facts

#### **Public Nuisances (shared 04-30-26)**

**Did you know that the Town of Florence has a Public Nuisance Notice?** Town of Florence Ordinance No. 10-23-00 is Defining and Prohibiting Public Nuisances. It was originally adopted in October 2000. It was amended and updated in 2011 and 2012. The Town of Florence has an established ordinance specifically aimed at identifying and preventing public nuisances, demonstrating a strong commitment to preserving the well-being of its community.

**Did you know that there are multiple reasons that the Town has a nuisance notice?** The Town of Florence's June 2010 Vision Statement affirms its goal of ensuring that residents and visitors have access to diverse, year-round outdoor activities. This goal is supported by the town's commitment to preserving its pristine public forests, lakes, and rivers, which provide the foundation for these recreational opportunities. The township also serves as the county seat, providing essential services that support public health, family well-being, environmental stewardship, and a strong commitment to economic growth. The Town Board believes our community should present a strong first impression—one that remains as clean, natural, and free from man-made nuisances.

Overall, the Public Nuisance Ordinance is intended to safeguard the community's overall health, safety, and quality of life. It also helps ensure that no resident's property value is negatively impacted by situations where a property owner, whether intentionally or unintentionally, allows conditions that violate the nuisance ordinance.

**Did you know that there are public nuisances that can affect health?** Some examples of public nuisances affecting health include accumulation of trash, rubbish, rotting lumber, animal waste, etc. It also includes weeds and un-cut grass in a length exceeding 5 inches.

**Did you know that there are public nuisances that can affect peace and safety?** These items can include trees, brushes, signs, etc. that might block vision or be low hanging or overgrown. In addition, all buildings or structures that are abandoned, damaged, dilapidated, etc. that they could pose a serious hazard to the health or safety of residents, neighbors or the public. Refrigerators, freezers, septic tanks, etc. that are abandoned pose a safety risk if a person is able to get in and have no way to get out once the doors are closed. All obstruction of streets, alleys, sidewalk, etc. can also be defined as a public nuisance.

**Did you know that this ordinance also has definitions for public nuisances affecting junked and abandoned vehicles, affecting trees and shrubs, and affecting housing or keeping of undomesticated or wild animals?** Each type of nuisance has rules, expectations and definitions. The entire nuisance ordinance can be found on the Town of Florence website.

**Did you know that the Town Board does not want to write fines and citations for violations or the nuisance ordinance?** The reason for the nuisance ordinance is listed above. Basically, the Board just wants the Town to be safe and clean for all those who live in the Town and visit the Town. The board reaches out to property owners when they have a concern regarding a property. Often times, the first contact will not even be an actual violation notice, but rather a courtesy letter from the Town sharing the ordinance and concerns.

**Did you know that the Town has a multi-step process laid out in the ordinance?** If an actual violation notice is sent by the Town, it will describe the issue/reason for the violation. It will also ask the property owner to address the issue or contact the Town or Town Board within



10 days of the notice. The ultimate goal is to remove the nuisance, and sometimes it takes time to make that happen. **Did you know that if you receive a notice and call to talk to someone about it that phone call can pause the violation?** The goal of the Town Board is to open a line of communication into the issue, how it can be fixed and if there may be help needed? There are times when the Town is able to put the property owner in contact with someone who may be able to help take care of it the issue.

**Did you know that the Town of Florence residents have access to a material drop off site that can help them get rid of large items?** The Material Drop-Off center is typically open the first and third Saturday's of the month from May through the first Saturday in November. It is located at W3850 County Highway N, which is about 2 ½ miles south of Florence on County N. If you get to County Highway D, you've gone too far. This drop off site is actually in the Town of Commonwealth, but is for Town of Florence and Commonwealth property owners to use. The cost to operate the material drop off site is shared between the two towns.

**Did you know there are certain items you can and cannot bring to the drop off site?** This site is for large recyclable material and furniture disposal only. Bags of garbage and solid waste garbage will not be accepted. Bags should be placed in green Town of Florence garbage containers for weekly pick-up. Construction and demolition debris will also be refused. This material must be disposed of in a demolition waste landfill. Residents from Florence and Commonwealth are welcome to bring the listed materials: oil, metal, compost, dried empty paint cans & lids, batteries.

Residents of Florence & Commonwealth may dispose of furniture at the Florence Material Drop-Off Site on open dates. Hazardous waste facilities: Brown County and Onieda County have locations to bring your hazardous waste under self pay. Lamp Recyclers, Inc. - Provides specialized recycling services to commercial, governmental, and industrial uses. Fluorescent & mercury lamps, medical waste disposal, document destruction, computers.

**Did you know that the drop off site is free for most (but not all) items?** There is a charge for the following items: appliances including refrigerators/freezers, microwaves, humidifiers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners (\$10.00 each), car & light truck tires (\$6.00 each w/o rims; \$8.00 each with rims), mattresses (\$20.00).

**Did you know that the Material Drop Off Site opens this weekend for 2026?** The first Saturday it will be open is Saturday, May 2, 2026. The complete schedule can be found on the Town of Florence website. It can also be found on the recycling calendar that was enclosed with the 2025 Property Tax Bills.

**Did you know that the Public Nuisance Ordinance was made to help our entire Community?** With a clear understanding of the detrimental effects that certain nuisances can have on the public, the Town Board of Supervisors has taken the initiative to establish a definition for such nuisances and to prohibit them. This not only reinforces the community's safety and comfort, but also displays the Town's dedication to maintaining a positive image.

As a result, the Town of Florence strives to keep itself free of any man-made nuisances, ensuring that a good first impression is always presented to visitors and residents alike. By upholding this ordinance, the Town of Florence is able to consistently portray a pristine and unblemished environment, making it a desirable place for individuals to live, work, and visit.