

Understanding Chocoday Township Vehicle parking and storage restrictions – applies to the R-1, R-2, MFR, WFR and AF districts

What you can do at your residence without prior approval:

If contained in a fully enclosed and permitted building and meets all zoning and building laws:

- Can park or store any VEHICLE, trailer, or associated new or used parts and junk.*
- Can perform repairs, redesigning, modifying, or dismantling work on *your own* vehicle or trailer or parts, *provided you don't create a nuisance or annoyance* to adjoining property owners or occupants and *you don't violate the use provisions of the Township Zoning Ordinance*.*

If NOT contained in a fully enclosed and permitted building:

- Can park or store *duly licensed and operable* VEHICLES or trailers with all MAIN COMPONENT PARTS attached.*
- Can park or store two *temporarily* INOPERABLE VEHICLES or trailers (or combination) that are not dismantled and have all MAIN COMPONENT PARTS attached – *but they can be parked at a residence no longer than 14 days*.*
- Can park or store a fully operable vehicle such as a stock car or PLOW TRUCK that is redesigned for another purpose, *provided there is no building in which it could be parked, and provided it is not parked in the front or side yard area except during the season of use*.*
- Can park or store one INOPERABLE VEHICLE under restoration for a hobby.*
- Can park or store one operable vehicle for sale by owner (with a “for sale” sign) *but no longer than 30 days*.*
- Can park or store vehicles *being used for agricultural practices*.*
- Can park or store *no more than 3* INOPERABLE VEHICLES that are *completely screened* at all times from adjacent roadways and the ground level of adjoining properties. Screening includes solid ornamental fencing, terrain, trees, or other natural barriers.* (Fences require permits & must comply with Section 18.13 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.)
- Can do repair, redesigning, modifying, or dismantling work on your own vehicle or trailer or part at your residence for *no more than 14 days*, provided you *don't create a nuisance or annoyance to adjoining property owners or occupants* and *you don't violate the use provisions of the Township Zoning Ordinance*.*
- In the R-1, R-2, WFR, and MFR districts, you can park one personal size commercial car, truck, or van (including personal vehicles with signage) or other commercial truck or van not more than 25 feet long or more than 16,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight. If you have more than one such vehicle, or it is larger than specified, you need approval by the Planning Commission under the Home Occupation provisions of the Ordinance.** *Note: Equipment used for your own snowplowing or farming is not considered to be a commercial vehicle and is not subject to this provision.*
- In the AF district, you can park one personal size commercial car, truck, or van (including personal vehicles with signage) or other commercial truck or van not more than 27 feet long. If

you have more than one such vehicle, or it is larger than specified, you need approval by the Planning Commission under the Home Occupation provisions of the Ordinance.** *Note: Equipment used for your own snowplowing or farming is not considered to be a commercial vehicle and is not subject to this provision.*

What is NOT lawful in Chocolay Township:

- Using any *required* parking space for the storage of any motor vehicle for sale or for any other purpose.** *Two parking spaces are required for every single-family dwelling and for every dwelling unit in a two-family dwelling structure. See Zoning Ordinance Section 8.1 for parking space requirements for all other uses.*
- Parking, storing, maintaining, or placing a MOTOR VEHICLE, house trailer, tractor trailer, or associated new or used parts or junk within the public right-of-way or on public property.* *The right-of-way along M-28 and US-41 is variable (mostly between 60 and 100 feet from the center line of the roadway based on location and road placement).*
- Repairing, redesigning, modifying, or dismantling work or operations on any vehicle or trailer or part upon any public right-of-way or on public property.*
- Parking, storing, maintaining, or placing *unlicensed* vehicles or trailers, or associated new or used parts or junk that are not within a fully enclosed building, fully screened, or temporary per the provisions outlined in *“What you can do at your residence without prior approval”*.
- Doing unenclosed repair, redesigning, modifying, or dismantling work on your own vehicle or trailer or part at your residence for *more than 14 days* except as noted per the provisions outlined in *“What you can do at your residence without prior approval”*.

Useful Definitions:

Vehicle: Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a road, including trailers, excepting devices moved by human power.

Motor Vehicle: Every vehicle which is self-propelled by means of an engine, and shall include, but not be limited to, automobiles, trucks, vans, buses, truck tractors, motorcycles, motorbikes, bulldozers, front end loaders, and other types of construction equipment, logging skidders, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), and boats.

Inoperable: A vehicle dismantled for the sale, salvage, repair, or reclamation of parts, and does not have all of its main component parts attached; or when the vehicle, if eligible for operation upon the public roads, is incapable of such operation in a lawful manner upon the public roads.

Main Component Parts: Fenders, hood, wheels, radiator, motor, windows, doors, muffler, body, or essential parts of the engine, and all such other parts or equipment necessary for the vehicle to be lawfully operated upon the public roads pursuant to the Michigan Vehicle Code, as amended.

Plow Truck: An unlicensed motor vehicle with snow removal equipment attached used for the sole purpose of removing snow from residential premises.

Applicable Ordinances:

*Ordinance #55 Vehicle and Trailer Parking and Storage

**Chocolay Township Zoning Ordinance Section 6.11 Commercial Vehicle Parking in Residential District.