

Yard Maintenance

Let's "kick it up a notch, Aberdeen!"

We are lucky to live in neighborhood that is the envy of many. With our Florida sunshine, mild winters, gated community of beautiful custom homes with consistently high standards of construction / appearance, and stylish mailbox lampposts, Aberdeen is truly a special place!

Part of Aberdeen's appeal comes from the care with which our lawns and landscaping are maintained. But the flip side of that is if yards are not well maintained, it detracts from the overall "curb appeal" of the neighborhood, and reflects directly in property values. With that in mind, and recognizing that our covenants require that each Aberdeen homeowner maintain the exterior of their property in a "first-class, neat and attractive condition", following are some tips to keep our neighborhood beautiful:

- **Mildew control** – with the rainy season well under way, please keep an eye on your driveway, sidewalk and roof. If mildew is taking over, pressure wash or treat with bleach.
Tip: Whether you hire someone or do it yourself, don't forget gutters and the rocks around your mail box!
Tip: If your roof is mildewed but you're concerned about someone walking on your roof, look into treating from the ground with chemicals instead. But be sure they cover any landscaping!
- **Weed control** – weeds grow like crazy during rainy season, but a bottle of RoundUp and a few minutes a week is all it takes to keep the weeds at bay. Be sure to treat all mulch beds, driveways, & around your mail box (weeds love the mailbox rock areas this time of year!).
Tip: Many driveways have lost the wood divider joints or have developed cracks, and weeds love both areas and are particularly unsightly when let go! Spray any weeds you see. Even tiny weeds will quickly become big right now!
- **Storm debris** – Our summer storms are intense, so afterwards be sure to walk around and pick up any debris such as fallen branches, clumps of moss, pine cones, piles of pine needles, etc.
- **Other debris** –Dispose of any flyers left on driveways by service companies. Pick up any litter from your lawn or curb areas.
- **Lawns** – if you mow your own lawn, be sure to trim around trees and mulch beds, and keep sidewalk and driveway edges neat.
- **Tree/shrub trimming** – Keep all hedges and shrubs neat, such that new growth "shoots" are trimmed 2-3 times per year back to the original shape. Palms should be trimmed to remove seed pods and dead or browning older branches.
Tip: If you have date palms, queen palms or Robillini's, immediately after trimming the lower branches should point up, in a "Y", preferably with branch tips no lower than the base of the frong area.
Tip: Bag any shorter trimmings, and bundle longer branches. Try to place clippings at the curb for pickup no earlier than 5 pm the night before trash removal day as a courtesy to your neighbors. Even though our covenants provide a weekend exception for those who travel and are otherwise able to put them out on trash day, putting clippings out closer to pickup keeps our driveways neat in appearance for everyone.
Tip: If you have plantings near the sidewalk, be sure they do not protrude beyond the sidewalks or overhead.

- **Signs** – no exterior signs are allowed under Aberdeen’s Architectural Control Manual, except home for sale signs in the approved design. If a contractor asks to be allowed to put a sign up, let them know it’s not allowed.
 - Tip:** Lawn chemical service companies are required to put a notification of treatment on any treated lawn, but many such signs are now advertisements. Ask them to use small lawn cards instead (if possible) and remove all such notifications of treatment after 24 hours.
 - Tip:** If a roofing company or other contractor insists on a sign in order to offer a discounted price, remove the sign or have them do so except when work is actively in progress.
- **Mailbox area** – apply Roundup to any weeds in rocks around boxes. Otherwise your lawn mowing service may get too close with their weed wackers. If you use the flagpole, make sure your flag is not tattered or excessively faded. Finally, wash off any bird droppings (which are corrosive and, with time, can affect the finish of the mailbox) and spider webs.

Let’s take extra pride in where we live and follow these simple steps to a beautiful Aberdeen, and keep our “curb appeal” and real estate values high!