



Marion County
OREGON

Off-Road Vehicle Regulations



*Protecting the health and safety
of the county's residents and
visitors, and the livability of the
community*

Marion County Code Enforcement
Sheriff's Office, Marion County Courthouse
100 High St. NE, Salem, Oregon
Phone: (503) 373-4333
email: enforcement@co.marion.or.us

Does the County regulate off-road vehicles (motorcycles, dirt bikes, ATVs, etc.)?

Yes. Marion County has determined that off-road vehicles can provide appropriate, useful, and energy efficient alternatives to automobiles and can be acceptable recreational devices when properly operated. However, it is necessary to regulate the use of off-road vehicles to minimize conflicts, prevent damage to and deterioration of the environment, and protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. The County enforces this policy through County Code Chapter 10.25.

What are the County's off-road vehicle regulations? Chapter 10.25 states:

- No person shall operate or allow anyone else to operate an off-road vehicle on any non-road area within the urban growth boundary of any city.
- No person shall operate or allow anyone else to operate an off-road vehicle on any non-road area between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- No person shall operate or allow anyone else to operate an off-road vehicle on any non-road area for more than 3 hours between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
- No person shall recreationally operate or allow any other person to recreationally operate an off-road vehicle on any non-road area that is within 100 feet of the property line of that property.”

“Non-road area” means any area that is not a public road, but does not include areas commonly held open to vehicular use, such as parking lots and permitted racetracks.

“Recreationally operate” means to drive, operate, ride or otherwise propel an off-road vehicle for recreational purposes. Recreation operation includes the use of an off-road vehicle on a track, loop, trail, course, raceway, strip, hill, area with jumps, mounds, or banked turns, or other similar terrain.

Are there any exceptions to these regulations?

- “Recreational operation” does not include off-road vehicles used exclusively for the purpose of property maintenance.
- The ordinance does not prohibit the use of off-road vehicles in conjunction with farming, timber production, emergency services, fire prevention or law enforcement.

How can I file a complaint?

Marion County Code Enforcement handles off-road vehicle complaints. Noise disturbances during the day should be reported to Code Enforcement. See contact and location information on the front of this brochure. You can also print out a complaint form from our website:
<http://publicworks.co.marion.or.us/enforcement/PDF/Complaint.pdf>

Generally speaking, noise disturbances during evening or nighttime hours and general “disturbing the peace” situations should be reported to the Marion County Sheriff’s Office non-emergency number at (503) 588-5032.

Are complainants required to identify themselves?

No. However, anonymous complaints may be given a lower priority as they may not be as reliable as those made by citizens willing to identify themselves. Also, citizens providing their name, address or phone number will be informed of the enforcement investigation. Complainant information is kept strictly confidential.

What is the enforcement process?

Complaints vary greatly, necessitating flexibility in how they are processed, particularly those involving significant threat to public health and safety. The following is a general guideline for complaints handled by Code Enforcement:

Step 1: Complaint received and prioritized.

Step 2: Site visit to verify violation.

Step 3: Report prepared with investigation results and action necessary to correct.

Step 4: Notice of Violation sent to property owner and other responsible persons.

Step 5: If corrections are not made a citation may be issued.

Step 6: If a citation is issued, a date for arraignment with Marion County Justice Court is set.

How to avoid conflicts:

A few thoughtful questions to your neighbors might help you avoid conflicts and intervention from the Sheriff’s Office or Code Enforcement: 1) Ask your neighbors if any exterior noises (that seem “ok” to you) are disturbing them; and 2) Get to know your neighbors and their schedules, i.e. day sleepers. A little consideration goes a long way in neighbor-to-neighbor relations.

What community resources are available if I’m under enforcement or have a neighbor that needs assistance?

Neighbor-to-Neighbor: (503) 588-5253. Free, confidential and voluntary process that enables people in conflict to reach a mutually satisfying resolution with the help of a neutral third party. Mediation does not involve counseling or legal advice.

For more information, visit our web site at publicworks.co.marion.or.us/enforcement.

