

Internet Survey Summary For Renters

Q.1 Do you: Own Your Home
Rent

Renters =	41 or 6.6%
<u>Homeowners =</u>	<u>580 or 93.4%</u>
Survey Respondents =	621

Of the renters who responded:

Q.2 What is your opinion about establishing property maintenance codes for homes in Ames?

Don't know/Need more information	3	7.3%
Favor a property maintenance code	14	34.1%
Oppose a property maintenance code	<u>24</u>	<u>58.5%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.3 What additional information would help you make a decision? (Dialogue Box)

Renter's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- I am in favor of a code that deals with trash but lets people grow their bushes and grass as they see fit.
- What criteria will be used to assess inclusion of items in codes

Renter's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Will it apply to owner occupied homes?
- As a form of consumer protection for tenants. The councils request to make it apply to all owners, I think stretches the scope of this committee far.

Renter's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- I think that needs to be a limited Code for Safety & Garbage, NOT style or care. Not every has the money to paint their home. As long as it is safe, I do not think that it is the government's business.
- The background of all problems (not just a couple major heart wrenching photos) that are out there. I want to know the average issues. Not just the worst, and why Ames feels they need to make these decisions for average homes.
- Reasons behind some code proposals, proposed health risk.
- Where would you stop? Could you decide the color of houses, what type of plants are in the yard, where the kids should play. This is not a Disney world town. Even though we don't like the way certain addresses look we need the different looks for our community.
- What exactly are the proposals?

Q.4. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Detached garages, and sheds?

Don't Know	5	12.2%
Yes	19	46.3%
<u>No</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>41.5%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.5. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exterior stairways, handrails and guardrails?

Don't Know	5	12.2%
Yes	18	43.9%
<u>No</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>43.9%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.6. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Decks, porches, and balconies?

Don't Know	6	14.6%
Yes	15	36.6%
<u>No</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>48.8%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.7. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Roofs, gutters, and downspouts?

Don't Know	5	12.2%
Yes	14	34.1%
<u>No</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>53.7%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.8. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Landscaping and grading?

Don't Know	6	14.6%
Yes	9	22.0%
<u>No</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>63.4%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.9. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Structural supports/Foundation walls?

Don't Know	6	14.6%
Yes	18	43.9%
<u>No</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>41.5%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.10. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Grass height and weeds?

Don't Know	4	9.8%
Yes	20	48.8%
<u>No</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>41.5%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.11 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Sidewalks and driveways?

Don't Know	5	12.2%
Yes	20	48.8%
<u>No</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>39.0%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.12 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exhaust vents?

Don't Know	9	22.0%
Yes	9	22.0%
<u>No</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>56.1%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.13 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exterior walls (painting/siding)?

Don't Know	4	9.8%
Yes	15	36.6%
<u>No</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>53.7%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.14 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Chimneys, towers, overhangs, and decorative features?

Don't Know	6	14.6%
Yes	12	29.3%
<u>No</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>56.1%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.15 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exterior doors/Basement Hatchways?

Don't Know	7	17.1%
Yes	14	34.1%
<u>No</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>48.8%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.16 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Disposal of garbage, waste, and outside storage?

Don't Know	7	17.1%
Yes	25	61.0%
<u>No</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>22.0%</u>
Total	41	100%

Q.17 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Hard surface off-street parking?

Don't Know	9	22.0%
Yes	14	34.1%
<u>No</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>43.9%</u>

Total 41 100%

Q.18 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Other (dialogue box)

Renter's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- No comments from this group

Renter's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Windows
- broken windows; deteriorating fences
- Snow and Ice removal

Renter's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- I think the city should only monitor aspects of property that can affect the health and/or physical well-being of nonresidents.
- area look nicer
- Adjacent city property from 1 foot inside sidewalk to curb. Parking or storing vehicles on street or in unpaved areas on lot. Consider ice accumulated because of freezing rain to be considered differently from snow, sleet or hail. Provide side walks along all streets in the city at expense of owners.
- I like exterior property maintenance codes because they would bring up the general appearance of neighborhoods. They also allow fellow homeowners to have a voice about problem or unsightly areas that are around where they live.

Q.19 What do you like about exterior property maintenance codes? (Dialogue box)

Renter's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- If done for SAFETY reasons, I am in support of them as they would help prevent needless injury.

Renter's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- I believe it is important to have a code to keep Ames safe, clean, and somewhat attractive
- safety and health, of residents and passers-by
- Keep City looking clean and improve property values.
- I like that they force people to keep their property neat & tidy. I don't think they should be punitive to the poor
- enforcement and assistance to maintain a property
- Owner accountability, prevents pockets of blight
- preserves value and aesthetics or neighborhood, enhances safety
- Keeps areas safe and clean
- For the safety of the public and anyone that has to use the property in question

- Making Ames look better.
- keeps Ames looking like a high quality city, prevents pests, keeps neighboring homes happy
- it sets a standard of safety and appearance in which all must adhere to.

Renter's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Making sure garbage is picked up and homes are safe.
- It seems ridiculous to have a city dictate standards for lawn care--especially when taller plants may be better for the environment anyway.
- Ensuring a structural, safety, and health standard.
- I don't want the city telling me how I should keep my home looking. I don't want the city telling me or anyone else telling how to maintain my home. Not everyone who lives in Ames can afford to get things fixed and maintained like someone who makes well over 60,000 to 100,00 year can. Nothing. It's not because I want to be obstinate, but unless it is a hazard the city should stay out of and off of the property of its citizens.
- I Think is One of the biggest waste of time for the city to even be wasting on this. There is way more things to worry about the city of Ames as a whole looks better then lots of the towns in Iowa.
- Maintenance codes are designed to improve the look of the community, the neighborhood I live looks great because people take pride in their homes and community and themselves, pride that intrinsically motivates them to do so.
- Nothing, if you own your home you should be able to decide how it is kept.
- NOTHING
- HAVING THE CITY MOW MY GRASS
- Property owners should be required to remove garbage that may attract wildlife or create a public health concern.
- nothing
- Ensure safety of all citizens
- they are appropriate for rental properties but not for owner-occupied situations.
- They unfairly assert fines on poorer residents. They can be considered an invasion of privacy.
- Notning
- If enforced, it would give a more aesthetic appearance of the city residences.
- I would be concerned that the exterior property maintenance codes would be oppressive and cross the line of an owner's property rights. Sometimes codes like this begin with the best of intentions and then lead to very nit-picky rules.

Q.20 What concerns do you have about exterior property maintenance codes? (dialogue box)

Renter's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Discriminate against the poor
- When they infringe with individual property rights
- Aesthetic tastes vary and should NOT be the basis for maintenance codes.

Renter's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- My concerns are in having a code that still allows for personal freedom
- over-regulation.
- Property might need maintenance if there are too strict codes and might add a cost of annual maintenance cost.
- Keep them reasonable. Do NOT make them punitive to poor home owners
- infringing on one's person rights
- enforcement and added burden to code enforcement staff
- I do not want them to be over-the-top; should be reasonable for property owner.
- That renters will be expected to provide too much maintenance to structures/facilities landlords should be fixing.
- Nothing -- it has worked in other cities and towns I have lived in
- enforcement - is there enough manpower/budget, etc. to make it worthwhile

Renter's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- They punish low income residents and generally people who cannot afford maintenance, or who are not physically able to do the maintenance themselves.
- Government should not be telling people what their style of living should be.
- There are few things I like about the city deciding for a home owner what they can and can't do with their property. Rental property is different because tenants don't have a choice about fixing things and there should be protection of tenant rights
- Infringing on personal rights, some reasons seem to be based on aesthetics.
- The aesthetic value of a person's home differs greatly from person to person. So what is "trashy, unkempt to some could look fine to someone else. We want to have a nice looking city, but enforcing people to conform to some imposed code they didn't want seems absurd to me.
- That you will enact something that will cause those who cannot afford to maintain their property at the level of the people in Somerset to suddenly be required to. This is not the right time to be looking at ways to increase the expenses people have. Wait until the economy stabilizes and corrects it
- That its a code the city want to out cast people that may not be as organized as others or the money to keep up with everything going down hill with their house and a way for the city to try to take more money from the lower class.
- I don't like the idea of granting the power to others to force me, or my landlord, to perform "maintenances" on my own property. External motivation, such as threatening letters or fines are no way to motivate people into bettering the community.
- It gives the city of Ames one more way to control its renters and property owners and many people are already irritated with the crazy laws.
- EXCESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION AND EXPENSE
- CAN YOU HAVE THE CITY SHOVEL MY WALKS TOO

- People should be able to maintain their homes in their own fashion. Everything cant be perfect.
- This codes doesn't appear to address commercial and industrial properties, could impose economic hardships on low income property owners, determining if someone's property needs maintenance is subjective and should not be the city's decision.
- restrictions on patio/porch furniture should be removed
- this constitutes a total infringement of private property rights
- big brother' community; those that cannot afford or are able to maintain
- how to enforce codes without impacting property rights; how to equitably enforce codes without bias; possible increase of cost of living for low-income property owners
- infringement on basic rights of property owner
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- That it will limit people's ability to do what they like with their homes
- That they would not be enforced, just as snow removal from sidewalks is largely ignored by the city; still requires a complaint: or illegal parking; seems to require a complaint in residential areas.
- I would lean towards a code that takes care of safety issues (garbage, stairs, hand rails, etc) but not one for structural issues. If the person wants their home in disrepair, that is their business.

Q.21 Additional comments (dialogue box)

Renter's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Gravel parking is more eco friendly to the environment, and produces less run off, and down stream flooding
- I am in favor of a code that deals with trash but lets people grow their bushes and grass as they see fit.
- Two concerns: increased rents for property maint. will hit low-income (e.g. students) hard; lawn ordinances should not penalize those who want a yard full of native species or with a natural, non-manicured look

Renter's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Rental properties and houses need to have stricter codes than owned homes
- lawns are a good example of potential trouble: mowing is wasteful of energy and mowed green lawns are biological deserts that cause pollution
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- My focus would be on keeping properties up enough so as to not bring down the value of neighbors land. However, I hope that enforcement would be compassionate and thoughtful, and would direct people in need to resources that can help them.
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- I would love to see a way for property owners to get a break on repair costs. Perhaps a local vendor that would supply paint at a reduced cost, volunteer help, a help up not a hand out.
- I think the scope of this committee should stay within the realm of tenancies, but expand from the maintenance to include things such as leases, deposits, etc.. because all are issues pertaining to rentals, & all need to be readdressed to be more fair

Renter's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- A community approach (neighbors helping neighbors) might be more productive. We can survey our neighborhoods and find out how those of us who are able can help others who are not able to maintain some aspect of their property.
- Only safety and not misconstrued safety concerns. Only things like guardrails on steps.
- I think there are other things to worry about. Like more left turn signals at the stop lights. Now that Ames has had 3 people killed in the last 7 months maybe we need to change or look at the restraining orders and why that's not working? What happened to refurbishing North Grand Mall?
- Don't make Ames a place where no one wants to live, or worse a place where only the rich can live.
- cont. These letters/fines are surely the way the city will enforce the new code. Chances are, in the current downturn people may not have the funds for that new coat of paint& gutters. Instead offer Property tax reduction or rebate as a funding source
- Ames has too many codes that establish regulations that government should have no control over, such as indoor furniture in the lawn and parking in the yard. I find all the regulations extremely irritating and cannot wait to leave Ames.
- Next time provide more room for comments on your survey. The allowable text length is limited.
- This simply marks more socialist encroachment by our city government in the lives of its residents.
- no one should be punished for failing to abide by codes; codes should ensure safety, not aesthetics, those who cannot afford to maintain or are physically able should not be punished- people should help out neighbors who need help
- I find it alarming that neighbors are unable to talk to one another about concerns they have about someone else's property. Perhaps we need to focus on ways to open up communication between people living in neighborhoods and than on regulations.
- I owned and maintained a single family residence in Ames from 1953 to 2004.