



Habitat for Humanity New Brunswick

THRIVING IN YOUR COMMUNITY



**Thriving in Your
Community
Guide**



This guide is designed to honour the spirit of respect and empathy we encourage our families to build with the people next door, your neighbours! By doing so, not only do you build stronger communities, you uphold the Homeowner Partnership Agreement set fourth by Habitat for Humanity New Brunswick.

MORE THAN RULES AND REGULATIONS

Being a good neighbour is being considerate of the people who live next door and on your street. It means making an effort to be friendly by introducing yourself if you are new to the neighbourhood, or welcoming new neighbours if you are already a resident. Get to know your neighbours and their lifestyle so you can be considerate of their living schedule as well as your own.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER WAYS YOU CAN PRACTICE BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR



- ✓ Show pride of ownership by keeping your yard neat and clean and the exterior of your home properly maintained.
- ✓ Ensure garbage is stored in bins with lids and put to the curb regularly to avoid attracting pests.
- ✓ Control your pets and pick up their droppings from your neighbours lawn.
- ✓ Practice courtesy by avoiding profanity when outside.
- ✓ Learn about local by-laws and licensing.
- ✓ Be conscious of creating excessive noise at all times, but especially when your neighbours are sleeping.
- ✓ Respect your neighbour's rights and privacy.
- ✓ Teach your children to participate in good neighbour practices.
- ✓ Most importantly, be willing to help when you see a neighbour in need because good neighbours build good communities.

FIVE KEY THINGS PROPERTY OWNERS MUST DO

1. Keep your home and property in good repair.
2. Respect traffic and parking by-laws.
3. Respect the excessive noise by-law.
4. Obtain building permits prior to beginning construction work and in accordance with municipal by-laws. *Remember to get permission from HabitatNB before starting any building or reno projects*
5. Practice responsible pet ownership. Leash animals when in public and clean up after your pet.



Now that we have constructed the frame work for thriving within your community, it's time to expand your knowledge! Below, we will discuss the bulleted points previously mentioned in more detail.

Pride of Ownership

Pride of ownership is reflected in the way you choose to care for your home. It means maintaining your lawn in the summer and your driveway and sidewalk in the winter. It's putting away children's toys at the end of each day and making sure your lawn is free from litter and debris.

Habitat for Humanity New Brunswick requires you to protect your investment, your home, through thoughtful maintenance that will help your home maintain and grow in value. By showing pride in ownership, you are representing HabitatNB in a positive way that will ensure we are offered future opportunities to build more homes in your area. All of these things keep you aligned with our partnership agreement.

When you become a homeowner you must follow the standards set forth by your municipality which upholds the safety and welfare of not only you, but the general public.

The most common concerns are:

- ✓ Maintain steps, walks, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas of a yard to provide safe passage under normal use and weather conditions.
- ✓ Keep accessory buildings in good repair and free from any condition that may create a health, fire or accident hazard.
- ✓ Maintain outside stairs and porches so they are free of holes, cracks and other conditions that may cause an accidental hazard.



Proper Storage and Disposal of Waste

Every municipality throughout New Brunswick has by-laws outlining the proper storage and disposal of waste, recycling and compost. When waste is not stored properly it causes rodent problems, health concerns and may result in a hefty fine from your municipality. This will also risk damaging your relationship with your neighbours.

It is recommended that you become familiar with the waste collection schedule for your neighbourhood. A simple google search of your City or Town's name with the words "waste collection schedule", should render the information you need. Many Cities and Towns now offer downloadable apps specific to waste collection.

To avoid accumulation of waste on your property, please refer to the tips below.

- ✓ Get to know your waste collection schedule and add reminders to your calendar.
- ✓ Make sure organic materials are placed in the proper bags or bins for pick up.
- ✓ Practice proper recycling by cleaning and sorting item when adding to bins or bags.
- ✓ Put yard waste out at appropriate times throughout the year.
- ✓ Never put hazardous waste or electronics out for pick up. Instead find a depot close to you who accepts these items.
- ✓ Bulk waste collection of items such as appliances and furniture are available in most Cities or Towns. You will find specific information on collection of these items through your City or Town's web page.

If appliances are in working order or furniture is gently used without rips or stains, consider donating items to your local Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Our locations may offer pick up services in your area!

Fredericton ReStore 506-462-4881 * Saint John ReStore - 506-635-7867 *
Moncton ReStore - 506-384-4664 * Miramichi ReStore - 506-773-3265



use
today.
reuse
tomorrow.

Dangerous and Unsightly Premises

Please keep your property clean and free of waste, including:

- ✓ Junk, rubbish and refuse.
- ✓ Derelict vehicles, pieces of equipment, or machinery.
- ✓ Dilapidated buildings.
- ✓ Accumulation of wood shavings, sawdust or other flammable material.

Responsible Pet Ownership

Dogs, cats, birds and other animals are wonderful companions. Many people love pets however, not everyone finds animals appealing. When pets are not properly trained and controlled by their owners, they can ruin relationships with your neighbours and community members.

Before getting an animal you should be aware of what it takes to make it a good member of your family and of your neighbourhood.



- ✓ The average dog will cost you approximately \$3000 or more a year including food and veterinary bills. Can you comfortably afford the proper care needed with extra saved for emergency vet bills?
- ✓ Are you willing to devote the necessary time for training and care?
- ✓ Will you supervise the animals behavior with visitors and small children?
- ✓ Will you see to it that all animals, when outside, will be leashed?
- ✓ Will you clean up your animal's feces in your yard and while on walks?
- ✓ Will you have your pets spayed or neutered?

If you cannot honestly answer YES to each of these questions you should wait until you can do so, before adding an animal to your family.

Respecting Your Neighbours' Rights and Privacy

Every homeowner has the right to the reasonable enjoyment of their home and property. Because of this, there are codes and by-laws in place which protects all residents of your community from unkempt homes and yards, excessive noise, property encroachment and trespassing. Respecting your neighbours' rights and privacy will ensure you foster positive relationships with everyone in your community.

- ✓ Make sure your children are aware of your property lines and encourage them to play within them. Keep all toys with your property boundaries.
- ✓ Educate yourself on codes and abide by them when adding any structure to your property.
- ✓ Keep your property lines properly marked to avoid misunderstandings about boundaries.
- ✓ Follow the local noise by-laws.
- ✓ Follow local fire by-laws in regard to BBQing, fire pits, and Fireworks

Insurance

Insurance is a very important part of being a good neighbour. We often think of insurance as help when something goes wrong for us. It also helps protect our neighbours. If you own a house you need to protect it and yourself from possible losses. Those losses can happen a number of ways:

WATER - THEFT - FLOOD - SNOW, OR WIND DAMAGE - LEGAL LIABILITY

A home insurance program provides coverage for those losses and makes sure that you have enough money to rebuild or replace what was lost. If you don't have insurance you may find yourself in a situation where you cannot fix your home and there will be an affect on the properties around you.

Make certain your property insurance carries \$2,000,000 liability. That way, if someone is injured while on your property your home ownership policy will assist with voluntary medical costs and insure you, should legal action be taken against you.



Having a solid understanding of your insurance policy before the need to use it, will help alleviate stress, should you need to make an insurance claim.

Habitat for Humanity New Brunswick believes your home ownership journey should be a happy and celebrated one! Through thoughtfulness towards neighbours, abiding by the local by-laws and codes and being helpful within your neighbourhood, you will be well on your way to thriving in your community, year after year!

Safety and Emergency Numbers

EMERGENCY ONLY -Ambulance, Fire, Police, Rescue	911
Fire - Non Emergency	
Police - Non Emergency	
Hydro Emergency Calls	
Poison Control	1-844-POISON-X
Hospitals	
Community Resources	*211
Insurance Claims - Home	
Insurance Claims - Auto	

Emergencies

Be prepared for emergencies by filling in the the appropriate numbers above. Keep this list in an easy to access location and teach your children how to use it.

