

Zoning Enforcement – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I cut trees down in the Critical Area?

A: No, not without a permit. The Critical Area is measured as 1,000' inland from mean hightide.

Q: Can I put a fence on my property line?

A: Yes, although we discourage the practice, it can be done. We recommend slightly inside your property line so that if repairs are required you can do so while still on your lot. The maximum height of a fence without a permit is 6'. All fences constructed in the Critical Area require a permit.

Q: Can I have chickens on my property?

A: To have chickens, goats, horses, llamas, alpacas, cows, swine, etc..., you need a minimum of 3 acres. If you have less than that, you will need to go to the Board of Appeals for a variance.

Q: How tall can my neighbor's grass be?

A: Chapter 92 of the Calvert County Code states that it is unlawful to have grass which exceeds 12 inches in height within 100' of any house.

Q: Can my neighbor build a shed without permits?

A: Any structure over 150 square foot in size required to have a building permit. All structures located in the Critical Area are required to have a permit.

Q: Does the County assist in property line disputes?

A: No. The County does not get involved in property line disputes. This is a civil matter between neighbors.

Q: How many "untagged" vehicles can I have on my property?

A: We do not regulate untagged vehicles. We only regulate inoperable vehicles. Refer to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance for how many each zoned area can have. For most zones, it is 2 (except for Economic Center District and Marine Commercial District zoned properties).