

DRIVEWAYS AND CURB CUTS

WHY WAS THIS DRIVEWAY PROCEDURE DEVELOPED?

The County's driveway and curb cut procedure has been developed to regulate the location, spacing, width, alignment, number, and design of a driveway on public roads servicing adjacent private property. This procedure does not apply to privately owned roads and alleys.

HOW MANY DRIVEWAYS ARE ALLOWED PER PROPERTY?

One driveway per property owner shall be permitted, unless a development or circulation plan is provided to the Transportation Department to support the need for more than one driveway to handle traffic volumes. The only exception is where a property needs a one-way circular driveway to provide proper access. Whenever a property has the ability to access more than one road, the driveway will be limited to the lowest volume road to minimize the potential impacts associated with any driveway.

WHERE CAN DRIVEWAYS BE LOCATED?

No portion of any driveway is permitted within five feet of corner curb returns or located within the area occupied by a drainage catch basin's local depression. The edge of the driveway cannot be less than two feet from obstructions such as fire hydrants, utility poles, street light standards, signs, and mailboxes.

Residential: The driveway width must be between 10 and 27 feet. The total widths of all driveways cannot exceed 40 percent of the property frontage. No driveway is allowed unless there is space on the private property for an 18-foot long vehicle.

Commercial: The minimum driveway width is 10 feet. The maximum driveway widths are:

<u>Lot Width</u>	<u>Driveway Width</u>
< 100'	20'
100-150'	30'
> 150'	60'

The total widths of all driveways cannot exceed 60 percent of the property frontage. No driveway is allowed where there is any obstacle that prevents any vehicle entering the driveway from completely clearing the public right-of-way when parked on the lot.

WHAT OTHER STANDARDS APPLY TO DRIVEWAYS?

All driveways shall be constructed in accordance with the following requirements identified in the County Road Standards:

- ✓ Residential: Plate: E-2
- ✓ Commercial: Plate: E-2a
- ✓ Rural (ADT < 1,000): E-7
- ✓ Rural (ADT > 1,000): E-6

These road standards may be found on the Ventura County web site at: http://www.ventura.org/vcpwa/eng_services/pwastds

Driveways shall be located so that adequate sight distance is provided for drivers to see traffic before entering the roadway. The following table provides the approximate sight distance needed for passenger cars:

ROADWAY DESIGN SPEED	SIGHT DISTANCE
20 mph	200'
30 mph	300'
40 mph	400'
50 mph	500'
60 mph	600'

Drainage from your property must be addressed so that driveways do not become a point of concentration for water flowing from your property into the road right-of-way.

HOW ARE ADJACENT/OPPOSING DRIVEWAYS ALIGNED?

Closely spaced adjacent driveways serving planned developments should be combined into joint driveways and opposing driveways should preferably be aligned.

Where planned developments are not large enough to allow driveways on opposite sides of the street to be aligned, the center line of driveways not in alignment will normally be offset a minimum of 250 feet on all collector roads, and preferably 300 feet on all major and arterial roads. Greater storage lengths may be required for left-turn lanes.

DO I NEED A PERMIT BEFORE I CAN CONSTRUCT A DRIVEWAY?

A County encroachment permit is required for any work in the right-of-way, except for routine maintenance of landscaping. Before you start construction of any improvements such as a driveway or curb cut, fences, pilasters, non-conforming mail boxes, and basket ball shooting hoops in the road right-of-way, you

should obtain an encroachment permit. If improvements are constructed in the road right-of-way without a permit, the County will consider this an illegal encroachment per § 12100-2 and § 12100-8 of County Ordinance 2041. Per California Streets and Highways Code, §1480.5 and § 1483, you will be given 20 days to submit your permit application for this encroachment. Failure to submit the application within the prescribed time frame may result in the removal of the illegal encroachment by the County. You could be charged for all the County costs incurred.

You should be aware that if you fail to obtain the required permit, you could also be subject to addition fines and penalties allowed by the California Streets and Highways Code, § 1480-1496 et al., of up to \$350 per day if the encroachment is installed without a permit.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions or wish to obtain an application for an encroachment permit, please contact the permit desk at **(805) 654-2055** or through the "Contact Us" link at: <http://www.countyofventura.org>

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