

Residential Landscape Guide

INTRODUCTION

The City of La Quinta is committed to preserving the visual quality, safety, and environmental sustainability of its neighborhoods through established code compliance standards. Proper landscape maintenance plays a critical role in achieving these goals by enhancing curb appeal, preventing hazards, and supporting water conservation efforts. This guide has been developed to provide property owners with clear, practical direction on maintaining their landscaping in accordance with municipal regulations.

Adhering to these standards helps ensure that properties remain free of overgrown vegetation, debris, and conditions that may contribute to blight or safety concerns. By following the outlined requirements, residents and property owners contribute to a cohesive community aesthetic while protecting property values and public welfare. This guide serves as both an educational resource and a reference tool to support ongoing compliance with the City's landscaping expectations.

Water Conservation (LQMC 8.13)

Residential landscaping shall comply with the requirements of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, with an emphasis on minimizing water waste and promoting responsible water management practices. Coachella Valley Water District provides a digital guide to water-efficient, desert-friendly plants online.

Scan the QR code to download the Free CVWD Book on Desert-Friendly Landscaping



Scan for information on the La Quinta Gravel program requirements

REQUIREMENTS

In order to remain in agreement with the community landscaping standards, homeowners must abide to these requirements.

Landscape (LQMC 9.50.090 A-8)

All front and exterior side yards shall be landscaped to the property line.

Ground Cover (LQMC 9.50.090 A-9)

All developed properties shall have ground cover of sufficient size, spacing and variety to create an attractive and unifying appearance.

Examples of ground cover suitable for our area include Sod (grass), river rock, pea gravel, crushed stone, decomposed granite (DG), flagstone, and artificial turf.

(Native soil is not acceptable due to soil erosion and dust control)

Plants and Irrigation (LQMC 9.50.090 A-9 & A-10)

All landscaped areas are required to include intentionally installed living vegetation and must be maintained with a functional irrigation system.

Examples of vegetation include trees, shrubs, succulents (cactus), sod (grass) and decorative flowers.

Maintenance (LQMC 9.50.090 A-11 & 11.72.030 R & T-8)

All landscaping within the City shall be maintained in a healthy and viable condition. Overgrown weeds shall be removed on a routine basis. Vegetation shall be trimmed as necessary to prevent encroachment onto sidewalks, streets, and any public right-of-way. Dead, diseased, hazardous, or deteriorated vegetation, as well as overgrown vegetation likely to harbor rodents or other vermin, shall be removed.

Tree Trimming and Roof Debris (CFC 304.1.2)

All large trees shall be trimmed to ensure no portion makes contact with the roofline. Any portion of a tree extending within ten (10) feet of a chimney must be removed. Roofs shall be maintained free of leaves, needles, and other dead vegetation to prevent fire hazards and structural damage.



Acceptable-Landscaping-Examples



Desert landscaping with drought tolerant shrubs, tree and succulents.



Desert landscaping with artificial turf and drought tolerant shrubs and succulents.



Grass with decorative flowers, drought tolerant shrubs and a palm tree.



Decomposed granite with succulents.

Unacceptable Conditions



Failure to irrigate with dead plants and debris in the yard.



Overgrown weeds and shrubs.

Disclaimer: (1) applicable codes and standards are subject to change; and (2) this leaflet is provided for informational purposes only. Property owners are responsible for complying with the most current codes and standards. Accordingly, we recommend that owners submit all proposed projects to the City for written confirmation that any specific landscaping plan complies with current City requirements.