



Annual Registration of Vacant or Abandoned Building

[San Francisco Ordinance 194-09, effective 10-01-09]

To: Property Owner of Record
From: DBI Code Enforcement
Re: **Annual Vacant or Abandoned Building Registration**

The Vacant/Abandoned Building Registration Ordinance was approved by the City on August 27, 2009 – and your building, at the above-mentioned address, may be vacant, or abandoned and thus subject to the Vacant/Abandoned building annual registration legal requirements.

You are hereby notified to register these buildings with the Department of Building Inspection within 30 days of receipt of this annual notice.

According to Section 103A.4.1. Definition. A building shall be defined as vacant or abandoned if it (1) is unoccupied and unsecured; or (2) it is unoccupied and secured by boarding or other similar means; or (3) it is unoccupied and unsafe as defined in Section 102A of the San Francisco Building Code; or (4) unoccupied and has multiple code violations; or (5) has been unoccupied for over 30 days. A building which is partially unoccupied and has been cited for blight under Chapter 80 of the S.F. Administrative Code, also shall be deemed a vacant or abandoned building that is subject to this Section.

If your building is vacant or abandoned, please call Code Enforcement at (628) 652-3430, or email dbi.codeenforcement@sfgov.org, to request a "Vacant or Abandoned Building" application packet for your review and required completion. After submission of department forms, an initial inspection will be scheduled and performed. Please return the completed application packet to the Code Enforcement Division, 49 South Van Ness Avenue Suite 400, San Francisco, CA. 94103. You also may access this information at www.sfdbi.org, when you click on the "Vacant Building Registration" link.

If your building is not vacant or abandoned, please provide evidence of the actual condition of the property, occupancy status and/or valid building permit in compliance with all building codes.

Failure to register annually a vacant or abandoned building, per the legislation, shall subject the property owner of record to penalties under San Francisco Building Code Sections 102A, 103A, Section 110-Fee Tables, and other applicable sections of the San Francisco Municipal Code.

If you have any questions or comments, please call the Code Enforcement Division at (628) 652-3430, or email dbi.codeenforcement@sfgov.org.

Code Enforcement Section

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 400 – San Francisco CA 94103
Office (628) 652-3430 – FAX (628) 652-3439 – www.sfdbi.org



ORDINANCE 194-09 VACANT / ABANDONED BUILDINGS

Abandoned or vacant buildings are a major cause and source of blight in both residential and nonresidential neighborhoods, especially when the owner of the property fails to actively maintain and manage it.

If you are a property owner and your building and property is vacant or abandoned, you are required to register by completing an application and submitting annual registration fees to the Department of Building Inspection pursuant to Ordinance 194-09. In addition, you need to maintain and secure your property, even if partially unoccupied, to prevent blight and public safety hazards in compliance with Chapter 80 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, the California Environmental Quality Act and all other applicable building, health, fire and safety codes.

As a property owner, it is your responsibility to:

1. Fully complete the registration and submittal of the vacant or abandoned building application with filing fees in the amount of \$711.00 within 30 days of building/property vacancy or abandonment.
2. Application completion requires submitting owner and agent contact information, describing how property has been secured against unauthorized entry, designating any future plans for the property, and providing fire and liability insurance coverage information.
3. Maintain the building interior in a manner which prevents damage by the elements or from plumbing leaks, free from accumulation of garbage and other debris, and free from infestation from rodents, insects or other pests.
4. Maintain the exterior of the building and grounds in continual compliance with all applicable codes and regulations so as to prevent blight. This shall include the maintenance of landscaping and plant materials in good condition; the regular removal of all trash, debris and graffiti; a safe structure which preserves physical integrity including paint and finishes, foundation, roof, chimneys, flues, gutters, downspouts, scuppers, flashing, skylights, windows, and exterior stairs and decks; prevention of criminal activity on premises and trespass by unauthorized persons; and the shut off of utilities not necessary for building maintenance.
5. Post a sign at the front of the building or property in a conspicuous location protected from the weather that provides the current name, address and phone number of the owner of record and authorized agent, if different from owner. If a notice of default or foreclosure has been recorded for the property, the lender's name, address and telephone number must also be provided. Signage shall be no smaller than 8-1/2 by 11 inches.
6. Renew vacant or abandoned building application with payment of fees the beginning of each calendar year.

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ORDINANCE 194-09
VACANT / ABANDONED BUILDINGS

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Have you recently acquired property which had been placed on the vacant or abandoned list, and you wish to remove or deregister it as being currently occupied?

If the property you have recently acquired by ownership or lease agreement is being occupied by you, you must provide proof of occupancy, in order for the department to deregister your property from the vacant or abandoned list. Such proof of occupancy may be determined from the submittal of the following:

1. A copy of your most recent PG&E or gas and electric statement indicating property address
2. A copy of your most recent Recology or garbage statement indicating property address
3. A copy of your most recent PUC or water statement indicating property address
4. A copy of your current lease or rental agreement indicating property address

Have you recently been issued a valid Building Permit Application for the property on the vacant or abandoned building list?

Depending upon the type and scope of the building permit issued, you would wish to contact the Building Inspector directly, to ascertain if this permit will enable you to deregister the property from the vacant or abandoned building list for the duration of the permit. Proof of permit activity would be a copy of the signed Job Card. You may contact Code Enforcement Section at (628) 652-3430 with any questions.

Does the building and property comply with all applicable codes, does not contribute to blight, is ready for occupancy and is being actively listed for sale?

If so, you should provide verification indicating this activity, including the real estate or MLS listing number. Without this verification, the department has no way of knowing the condition of the property without performing site inspections.

Have you recently sold property or had a transfer of interest for property which had been placed on the vacant or abandoned list, and you no longer wish to be identified as the owner of record?

If you have recently sold property or had a transfer of interest in property that had been placed on the vacant or abandoned list, simply notify our office that you are deregistering as the responsible party. Once informed, we will send all vacant or abandoned building annual application renewal packages to the new owner of record, according to the Office of the Assessor-Recorder.

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**City & County of San Francisco – Department of Building Inspection
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF VACANT
OR ABANDONED BUILDING**

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete all areas of the application and mail or deliver a check (only-pre-printed checks will be accepted) or money order for \$711.00, payable to “DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION”, Code Enforcement 49 South Van Ness Avenue Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103. Do not mail cash. Cash is only accepted in person. A separate application and registration fee must be submitted for each parcel.

NOTE: San Francisco Building Code Section 103A.5.2 requires the owner to register annually a vacant or abandoned commercial storefront with the Department of Building Inspection within 30 days after it has become vacant or abandoned. For more information, call Code Enforcement at (628) 652-3430

Step 1:	Registration Year			
Step 2:	Assessor Block	Lot Number	Unit Number	Street Address
Step 3:	Name of Owner of Record		Owner Address	Owner Telephone Number
Step 4:	Name of Owner’s Authorized Agent		Authorized Agent Address	Agent Telephone Number
Step 5:	Name of Contact Person for Initial Inspection		Contact Person Telephone Number	
Step 6:	<p>Pursuant to Ordinance No. 194-09, it is the property owner's obligation to register a vacant or abandoned commercial storefront, which requires completion of the following questions:</p> <p>A. Describe the methods by which the owner has secured the property against unauthorized entry. All methods of security shall be subjected to approval by the Director.</p> <p>B. As the owner, declare any future plans for the property:</p> <p>C. State the name of the fire and liability insurance carrier, policy number, fire/liability coverage amounts and agent name/contact phone number insuring the said property. All insurance coverage is subject to approval by the Director <u>Attach a copy of the insurance information to this form</u></p>			

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D.	If notice of default or foreclosure has been recorded on this property, the lender’s name, contact person name, address, and telephone number is required.
Step 7:	The cost to register a vacant or abandoned commercial storefront is \$711.00 per year. No proration or refund of registration fee is allowed. NOTE: Failure to register and/or comply with this ordinance may result in Monthly Monitoring Fees and other Assessment of Cost.
Step 8:	The owner certifies this is not a valid vacant or abandoned commercial storefront and exempt from registration for the following reasons:

Owner/Authorized Agent Signature

Date