



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SWEEPS & COVID-19

Updated July 27, 2020



The City of Portland says it will prioritize sweeping camps that:

- Have 8 or more occupied structures
- Block public sidewalks, paths, transit stations, restrooms or building entrances
- Prevent 6 feet of physical distancing
- Have significant garbage or debris
- Contains evidence of conspicuous drug use: uncapped, used hypodermic needles, other paraphernalia
- Has credible reports of criminal behavior, verified by Portland Police or Multnomah Cty Sheriff.

If a campsite meets some of these criteria, a warning may be posted. You will be given at least 24 hours to improve the situation before the site is posted for cleanup.

Sweeps should not be happening during COVID-19, but they still are. If a camp is swept, police must do the following:

- Post a notice in English and Spanish at least 24-hours before sweeping.
- Store personal property for 30 days.
- Make stored property available to anyone wishing to claim it.

Police may avoid giving notice by claiming that illegal activities are occurring at the camp, or that there is an emergency or immediate danger to residents or others.

When a sweeps notice is posted:

- Once a sweep begins, you are entitled to a reasonable amount of time to collect your belongings and leave before police can cite you. Usually you have 1 hour, but it may be less. If you need more time based on a disability, you may request a “reasonable accommodation” of additional time, but more time is not guaranteed.
- The notice must remain effective for at least 7 days: the camp could be swept at any time within 7 days and may be swept multiple times.
- The agency that sweeps and takes your belongings must give you a property receipt if you ask for one. They must document all items found at the camp.
- All items determined to be of value must be stored for at least 30 days. Call **(503) 387-1336** for retrieval info.

If you or someone you know gets swept, call the People’s Neighborhood Legal Collective Sweeps Support Hotline. Let us know:

- The location (street corners or address) where it happened.
- The day and time of day it happened.
- The names of the officer(s) involved. If it's Portland Police there should be a nametag on their outermost garment. If you got something in writing, their name and DPSST number should be on it. If they verbally warn you, they should either voluntarily give you a business card or give you one if you ask. Also note if the sweep was conducted by Rapid Response or another company.
- What items were taken from you.
- Whether a 24- (or 48-hour) notice was posted.

**You can report this information, get support, and more at:
People’s Neighborhood Legal Collective Sweeps Support Hotline**

844-206-2005

Other resources: Portland Cop Watch Incident Report Line - **503-321-5120** | Portland United Against Hate - **ReportHatePDX.com**

**IF EVERYONE CAN'T
AFFORD THE RENT**



**THEY SHOULDN'T
FUCKING TAKE
OUR TENT**

Poster
Syndicate



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends:

- That cities do not clear encampments, as this can cause people to disperse throughout the community and separate people from services.
- That people set up tents/sleeping quarters with at least 12 feet x 12 feet of space per person/couple.
- That nearby restroom facilities have functional water taps, are stocked with hand hygiene materials (soap, drying materials) and bath tissue, and remain open to people experiencing homelessness 24-hours / day.
- If toilets or handwashing facilities are not available nearby, governments should provide access to portable latrines with handwashing facilities for camps of more than 10 people.
- Do not share utensils, phones, cigarettes, etc. Wear a mask. Use hand sanitizer and wash hands frequently!

If you experience or witness a sweep, please report it to the

**People's Neighborhood
Legal Collective Sweeps Support Hotline**

844-206-2005



**PDX Trans Housing
Coalition**



**Portland
Assembly**



**DON'T
SHOOT
PDX**

A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
DONTSHOOTPDX.ORG



**Western Regional
Advocacy Project**

**SISTERS
OF THE
ROAD**



**Glitter
Squadron**

