

WHY ABANDONED PROPERTIES ARE BAD

Abandoned properties are harmful because they act as magnets for crime, reduce nearby property values, and pose significant safety and public health hazards. They cause blight, which can lead to community distress, increase costs for city services (like fire and police), and represent wasted housing or development potential.

Here are the primary reasons why abandoned properties are considered detrimental:

- **Increased Crime and Safety Risks:** Abandoned buildings are often hubs for illegal activity, including vandalism, theft, squatting, and drug use. They frequently attract arsonists, creating dangers for neighbors and reducing safety in the area.
- **Structural and Environmental Hazards:** Without maintenance, buildings decay rapidly due to water leaks, mold growth, and lack of climate control (causing frozen pipes in winter). These structures can become unstable, leading to collapsing roofs or floors.

- **Declining Property Values:** The presence of a neglected, vacant property reduces the value of surrounding homes and can make it harder for the neighborhood to attract investment.
- **Public Health Risks:** Neglected properties become breeding grounds for pests (rodents, insects) and are often used for illegal dumping, which can lead to contamination and health issues, such as dangerous fumes or diseases from vermin.
- **Financial Strain on Municipalities:** Cities often have to spend taxpayer money to secure, maintain, or demolish these properties, while simultaneously losing out on property tax revenue.

Ultimately, abandoned properties indicate a "hole in the social fabric," decreasing a sense of community safety and pride.