

## Neighborhood Tips



You know those people. Their lawn looks like clown hair, paint is peeling off of their siding, and their driveway is freckled with oil stains. It's bad enough that you have to look at their dying landscaping, but what's worse is that these things can be easily remedied by even the most hapless of homeowners. The best thing you can do, especially if your home is next to the eyesore in question, is to do a superior job of keeping your yard looking good. Water when the neighbors are watching, be visible on weekends, and just do what you can to show the contrast between what should be and what theirs is.



### The Rule of the Road

Remember that you have to live there. I know, your problem right now is that you have to live with the eyesore, but you also have to live with the people. Maybe they are busy, maybe they are strapped for cash, and maybe they just don't know any better. Just remember that if you are going to approach someone about the condition of their property, you had better be nice about it. Making them mad is not going to cure the situation, nor create a good relationship.

### The Oil Slicks in the Driveway

Those oil spots can make a driveway look pretty nasty, but there is hope. You clean the driveway yourself or you can hire someone to do it for you. I suggest that you take the reins yourself. Rent a powerwasher from the local rental shop. Buy a gallon of degreaser and some bleach. Use the degreaser first to start working on the stains. Then start working the powerwasher. You'll see how clean the washer will make the parts that aren't even dirty. Work hard on the stains to pull them up. What the degreaser and washer don't get, work some bleach in there. It might not remove it completely, but it will be much better. The sun will do the rest over time.

