



Illegal Dumping Affects EVERYONE

Dumping trash in unauthorized locations is unsightly and can cause major public health and safety concerns. Dumpsites can contain broken glass, exposed metal, hazardous wastes, and other dangerous materials; as well as attract pests such as rats, snakes, and mosquitoes. It also has very harmful effects on lakes, streams, and other water ways. Dumping contaminates ground and surface water which can pollute drinking water.

Aquatic vegetation and aquatic wildlife feel the impact as well when tainted water travels downstream. Cleaning up illegal dumpsites can cost millions of dollars, placing significant economic impacts on the surrounding communities. Finally, illegal dumping fosters a negative community image.



Stopping illegal dumping is everyone's problem and it makes good environmental and economic sense. Help Texas significantly reduce illegal dumping by working together with your local elected officials and law enforcement officers for a cleaner, healthier, and safer community.



What Can You Do To Help?

Law enforcement officials need your help in fighting environmental crime. You can take an active role in stopping illegal dumping by following the suggestions listed below:

- Always dispose of your own litter properly;
- Spread the word to friends and neighbors that illegal dumping is a crime;
- Do not transport unsecured debris in the back of a vehicle - always use a tarp or cover;
- Organize or participate in volunteer cleanups of illegal dumpsites - people are less likely to litter in clean areas;
- Do not pay roofing or other contractors until they present you with a receipt showing that your waste was properly disposed.

If you SEE it, REPORT it!

Call 311



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Your Report Should include:

- **Who?** Description of violator; License plate number; Description of vehicle
- **What?** Type of waste that was dumped
- **When?** Date and time of when you saw illegal dumping
- **Where?** Address where incident occurred
- **Your Contact Information:** Please provide your Name and Phone Number or you can remain anonymous

Dangers of Illegal Dumping



Mosquitos: Dumpsites with scrap tires provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can multiply 100 times faster than normal in warm stagnant water standing in scrap tire casings. Severe illnesses have been attributed to disease carrying mosquitos.

Rodents: Decomposing garbage can provide food and habitat for mice and other rodents. Rodents can transmit diseases directly or indirectly to humans.



Flooding: Illegal dumping can impact drainage, making areas more susceptible to flooding when waste blocks ravines, creeks, culverts, and drainage basins.



Contamination of Waterways: Rain and water runoff from dumpsites containing chemicals can contaminate creeks, streams, and lakes used as sources of drinking water.

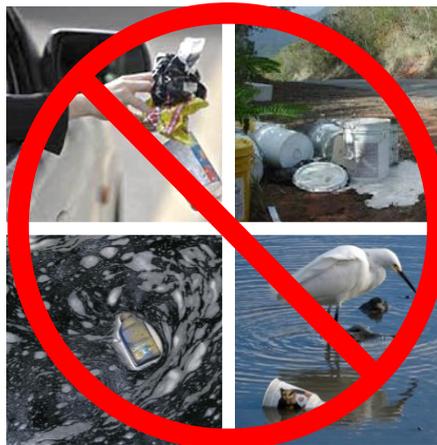


Penalties for Illegal Dumping Under the Texas Litter Abatement Act

OFFENSE	DESCRIPTION	PENALTY
Class C Misdemeanor	5 pounds or less or a volume of 5 gallons or less	Up to \$500 Fine
Class B Misdemeanor	More than 5 pounds but less than 500 pounds or a volume of more than 5 gallons but less than 100 cubic feet	Up to \$2,000 Fine and/or Up to 180 days in Jail
Class A Misdemeanor	500 pounds or more but less than 1,000 pounds or has a volume of 100 cubic feet or more but less than 200 cubic feet; or -- dumping for a commercial purpose and weighing more than 5 pounds but less than 200 pounds or has a volume more than 5 gallons but less than 200 cubic feet	Up to \$4,000 Fine and/or Up to 1 year in Jail
State Jail Felony	1,000 pounds or more, has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or -- dumping for a commercial purpose and weighing 200 pounds or more, has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or -- dumping a closed barrel or drum	Up to \$10,000 Fine and/or Up to 2 years in State Jail

Common Illegal Dumping Violations

- Throwing litter out of a car or boat
- Dumping household trash, construction debris, and/or yard waste in unauthorized locations
- Pouring used motor oil or restaurant grease into storm drains or down manhole covers
- Disposing of trash or yard waste in area creeks, lakes, storm drains, & other waterways



Proper Disposal Methods

Beaumont offers many options for properly disposing waste through various public outreach programs and trash collection methods. A few options include:

- Weekly curbside trash pickup service
- Community cleanup days
- Household hazardous waste collection through South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)

