

Penalties under the Texas  
Litter Abatement Act: Health  
and Safety Code 365

- CLASS C MISDEMEANOR:  
Fine up to \$500  
5 pounds or less or a volume of 5  
gallons or less.
- CLASS B MISDEMEANOR:  
Fine up to \$2,000 and/or up to 180  
days in jail  
More than 5 pounds but less than 500  
pounds or a volume of more than 5  
gallons but less than 100 cubic feet.
- CLASS A MISDEMEANOR:  
Fine up to \$4,000 and/or up to 1 year  
in jail  
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.
- STATE JAIL FELONY:  
Fine up to \$10,000 and/or up to 2  
years in State jail  
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.

COMMON ILLEGAL  
DUMPING VIOLATIONS  
INCLUDE

- ❖ 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.

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



HELP STOP  
*ILLEGAL* DUMPING



If you *see* it,  
**REPORT** it!



## DANGERS OF ILLEGAL DUMPING



### Mosquitoes:

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



### Rodents:

Decomposing garbage can provide food and habitat for deer 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, & drainage basins.



### Contamination of Waterways:

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

## 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.



Illegal dumping also has very harmful effects on lakes, streams, and other water ways. It 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. Costs to clean illegal dumpsites can run into the millions of dollars, placing significant economic hardship on local governments. Illegal dumping also has economic impacts on the surrounding communities – it fosters a negative community image. People are more likely to dump on property where dumping has already occurred.

## PROPER DISPOSAL METHODS

Municipalities offer many solutions for properly disposing waste through various public outreach programs and trash collection methods. Many of these options are available by simply calling your local municipality. A few of these options include:

- Curbside pickup services
- Community cleanup days
- Weekly trash collection
- Household hazardous waste collection

