

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

