

# ILLEGAL DUMPING



Illegal dumping is the intentional disposal of solid waste in an unpermitted area. Frequently dumped items can include: tires, C&D waste, HHW, yard waste, paint cans, mattresses, car parts, white goods and carpeting.

Illegally dumped trash will attract more dumping because people believe that it is a safe spot to dump. One improperly disposed item, even yard debris, can set off a chain reaction.

## Illegal Dumping Hurts Communities:

### Economically

- Cleanups are expensive (about \$3,000/site)
- Decreases in land and property values
- Tourism impacts & loss of revenue
- Livestock and Equipment damage

### Environmentally

- Water, Air and Soil pollution
- Destroys wildlife habitat

### Safety

- Source of potential injuries
- Creates breeding grounds for disease carrying mosquitoes and other vectors

### Socially

- Attracts crime and other unwanted behavior
- Destroys community pride



Tools and resources to combat illegal dumping are available at [www.KeepPABeautiful.org](http://www.KeepPABeautiful.org).

Surveys found:

- Illegal dumped materials often indicate the need for additional waste services or public education.
- Tires & household hazardous wastes are two of the most commonly dumped materials.
- Special programming can help provide opportunities to properly dispose of these and other materials.

## Reducing Illegal Dumping Efforts & Programs Include:

- Special Waste collections
- Public education
- Community beautification
- Enforcement
- Technical assistance to municipalities & organizations

## What You Can Do To Help:

- Report illegal dumping
- Monitor cleaned areas
- Learn about proper disposal
- Volunteer
- Participate in recycling programs



In Pennsylvania, it is illegal for any business to burn any material. In the case of trash dumped illegally, you could be held responsible and punished by fines, cleanup costs, or both if the debris is traced back to you.

## Prevent this By:

- Pay with a check and insist on an itemized receipt. This will defend if you illegally dumped trash is traced back to you. This includes a contractor or hauling construction debris from your home.
- If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is, you should get quotes and compare.
- Look for at least a name & phone number on the sides of the vehicle used to haul trash, be skeptical of vehicles without it.
- Haulers mixing hard-to-dispose of materials with household trash is a red flag.
- Be skeptical of haulers or people accepting TVs for free or for a very low price. TVs & electronics are expensive to manage properly.
- Ask where the TVs & electronics are going, options are limited in our area.

## Municipal Grant Opportunity:

The [IllegalDumpFreePA Program](#) was created to help local government and local law enforcement officials curb illegal dumping by exposing those who commit this crime.

## How to Report Illegal Dumping:

- Record as much information as you can: the date, time and exact address where you have seen the illegal dumping.
- Write down a license plate number and a vehicle description if possible. It is also very helpful for physical descriptions.
- Make a list of the things that you saw that were dumped.
- Contact your local police department and/or municipality, to file your report.
- You can also report illegal dumping to

Keep  
Pennsylvania  
Beautiful.

