

## Illegal dumping

### What is illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping is the unlawful deposit of an amount of waste over 200 litres (approximately the volume of a wheelie bin).

Illegal dumping includes items such as bags of rubbish and garden waste. It also includes larger scale dumping of building (construction and demolition) materials, household goods (such as whitegoods, mattresses and furniture), abandoned cars and car parts, scrap tyres and hazardous waste.



Illegally dumped items are a lost resource. Many items can be recycled—particularly garden organic materials, beverage containers, fridges, computers, tyres and car bodies.

Businesses and individuals that illegally dump do so to avoid disposal fees at landfills, or the time and effort required for proper disposal.

Illegally dumped waste is commonly found along roadsides as well as in parklands, car parks, vacant blocks of land and beside charity bins, garbage bins or skips.

Larger items are frequently found in illegal dumping 'hot spots' located in isolated areas like bushland reserves, national parks, and industrial and building sites.

To avoid detection and potential fines, offenders go to extraordinary lengths to illegally dispose of materials. If they considered the cost of fuel and time taken to dispose of the waste, they would usually find it cheaper and quicker to dispose of these materials legally.

Illegal dumping is unsightly. It ruins the public image of Queensland and damages the state's reputation. Illegal dumping costs Queenslanders millions of dollars a year in clean up costs, degrades the local environment and reduces property values.

Illegal dump sites not only attract further dumping, but also other illegal activities and antisocial behaviour—decreasing community pride and intensifying the problem.

### Dumping of rubbish causes health and safety risks

Sites where waste is dumped illegally:

- could contain broken glass, syringes, nappies, medical waste and toxic substances like asbestos
- attract rodents, insects and other vermin
- provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes
- block waterways and stormwater drains, increasing the potential for flooding and erosion
- are potential fire hazards.

Local government's provide a variety of services for residents to dispose of excess rubbish, green waste and larger items.

### Further information

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Website: <[www.derm.qld.gov.au/waste](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/waste)>

Mail: DERM

Penalty Infringement Notices

GPO Box 2454

Brisbane QLD 4001