



Littering and Dumping

Littering and dumping are serious offences which can have significant health, safety, financial and environmental impacts. They also can negatively impact on the visual amenity of an area.

What is littering?

Littering is the unlawful disposal of less than 200 litres of domestic or commercial waste material. It can include:

- Cigarette butts;
- Drink bottles and fast food packaging;
- Material falling off a trailer;
- Grass clippings;
- Food scraps; and
- Household goods.

What is dumping?

Dumping is the placement of 200 litres or more of domestic, commercial or industrial waste onto private or public land where no license or approval exists to accept such waste. Some examples of dumping include:

- Household rubbish and garden waste thrown over fences into a park or bushland;
- Household goods (such as whitegoods, TVs, mattresses and furniture) left on a footpath with a 'Free' sign or left outside a charity bin or shop;
- Disposal of building waste (construction and demolition materials) in other businesses industrial bins;
- Disposal of tyres, chemical drums and paint tins at roadside rest stops;
- Disposal of domestic or commercial waste in bushland, national parks or on council reserves.

What are the impacts?

Dumped garden or green waste materials (lawn clippings, branches, weeds, seeds and fruits) can cause safety and environmental impacts including:



- Seeds/cuttings growing in natural bushland;
- Grass seeds and cuttings growing where they are dumped;
- Potential fire hazard in bushland and fire break areas;
- Weeds competing with local native plants.

Household goods left on the footpath impact on the visual amenity of streetscapes, making them look untidy and unattractive.

Household goods, tyres, chemical drums and paint tins dumped in bushland, parks and reserves can create environmental and safety issues, including:

- Leaching contaminates into bushland and local waterways;
- Destruction of local bushland, reduction of biodiversity value and hinder revegetation;
- Restricted access on public land, which can create a hazard for emergency vehicle access;
- Prevention of maintenance works for roads, fire trails, bushfire protection zones and other property;
- Increased risk to firefighters and property maintenance staff by exposing them to potentially hazardous wastes or asbestos, or preventing access to roads.

What action does Council take?

Littering and dumping is illegal and a fine may be incurred. Offenders may also be required to restore the area to its previous natural condition.

Every reasonable attempt will be made by Council to locate the owner of the illegally dumped materials. If Council can identify the person responsible for littering or dumping, Council may:

- Issue a warning;
- Issue a compliance notice giving the offender information on how to remedy the offence; or
- Fine the offender on-the-spot.

How can I help?

Always make sure you dispose of your rubbish responsibly.

The majority of general household waste can be disposed of in Council's supplied green or red lidded waste bins. Recyclable items can be placed in the yellow lidded bins.

Excess amounts of household waste including green waste, recyclables, tyres, vehicles, furniture and white goods, should be taken to your nearest landfill facility or transfer station. For locations and opening times, visit Council's website.

Construction and demolition materials should be taken to the appropriate disposal facilities.

Large scale waste from commercial operators and skip hire companies should be taken to the appropriate disposal facilities.

Instead of throwing out unwanted items try to recycle them so they can be turned into something new or used by someone else.

You can also educate your friends and family about illegal dumping and the negative impact it has on our environment.

Can I report these activities?

You can report information relating to littering and dumping of materials by contacting Council on 1300 79 49 29. Your contact details will be required but will remain confidential.

Key information includes:

- Street location of illegal dumping;
- Type of materials dumped;
- If it constitutes a hazard;
- Date and time of dumping;
- Name and address of person(s) responsible (if known);
- Associated vehicle, registration number(s) (if known);
- Photograph/s of the incident(s).

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