

Help STOP Illegal Dumping in Victoria, Texas



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. Rats, snakes, mosquitoes and other pests are attracted to and populate around dumpsites...making the costs to clean these sites run into the thousands of dollars. Illegal dumping also has economic impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods – it fosters a negative community image. People are more likely to dump on property where dumping has already occurred.



Stopping illegal dumping makes good environmental and economic sense, and it is everyone's problem. Help Keep Victoria Beautiful and significantly reduce illegal dumping by working together with your local elected officials and law enforcement officers for a cleaner, healthier, and safer community.

Unauthorized locations include: creeks, lakes, storm drains, sewer systems, unauthorized use of a dumpster, and non-state regulated solid wastes sites or land.

Authorized locations include: state permitted landfills, collection stations, and/or recycling facilities.

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;
- Hauling trash for profit and dumping it in unauthorized locations;
- Letting someone else dump waste on your property, whether they pay you or not;
- Pouring used motor oil or restaurant grease into storm drains or down manhole covers;
- Disposing of trash or yard waste in area creeks, and lakes.

Citizens can take an active role in stopping illegal dumping by following the suggestions listed below:

- Always dispose of your own litter properly;
- Spread the word to friends and neighbors that illegal dumping is a crime;
- Do not transport unsecured debris in the back of a vehicle - always use a tarp or other cover;
- Organize volunteer cleanups of illegal dumpsites – people are less likely to litter in clean areas;
- Write or call your city or county elected officials and let them know that illegal dumping is a concern in your community;
- Do not pay roofing or other contractors until they present you with a landfill receipt showing that your waste was properly disposed;
- Report illegal dumping to:
Local Law Enforcement or TCEQ

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

- **CLASS C MISDEMEANOR**: Fine up to \$500 for dumping 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 for dumping 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 \$4000 and/or up to 1 year in jail for dumping 500 pounds or more but less than 1,000 pounds or 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 for dumping 1,000 pounds or more, a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or
-- dumping for a commercial purpose and weighing 200 pounds or more, a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or
-- dumping a closed barrel or drum.

