

Illegal Dumping

In Queensland, illegal dumping is an offence and penalties apply.

Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of any type of waste material that is 200 litres or more in volume. That's about the volume of a standard household wheelie bin.

Illegal dumping can occur in many areas including:

- bushland, parks and forests
- roadsides
- on the kerbside

Illegally dumped items commonly include:

- household rubbish
- garden waste
- household goods (such as whitegoods, TV's, mattresses and furniture)
- building waste (construction and demolition materials)
- tyres
- chemical drums and paint tins
- asbestos



Why is it a problem?

Illegal dumping is a serious issue. It causes damage to our environment and affects the use and enjoyment of our public spaces.

The cost to clean-up illegal dumping from public areas is extensive and this ratepayer money could be used for other community services and amenities.

Green waste dumping

Dumping of garden waste, organic waste and soils in the bush can seriously threaten our environment.

Some impacts include:

- introducing seeds and cuttings that can grow in natural bushland
- many of the plants can become environmental weeds
- increased fire threat in bushland and fire break areas
- weeds compete with local native plants
- dumped green waste can be detrimental to native plant species, and in turn, native wildlife that rely on these species for food and/or shelter
- removal of green waste and weeds takes community volunteer groups and council staff away from other care and vegetation programs.

I like to use my garden waste to mulch trees in the park near my house? Is that dumping?

Yes, even when well-meaning. Dumping green waste in natural bushland is unhealthy for our environment. It also affects the beauty of our open spaces, and can stop people from using them for recreation.

**ILLEGAL
DUMPING
IT'S A CRIME.**

SEE IT. REPORT IT.

Can I leave household items on the nature strip?

No. Leaving unwanted household goods outside your residence is illegal dumping.

If you want to dispose of household goods these should be taken to your local refuse station or kept on your property for private collection.

Dispose of your waste the right way

Items that can be recycled at council's resource recovery centres **at no charge** include:

- scrap metal
- refrigeration appliances
- kerbside recyclables
- domestic oil (maximum 20 litres)
- domestic pesticides and chemicals (maximum 20 litres)
- e-waste
- mobile telephones
- printer cartridges
- batteries
- mercury bearing items
- clothing and clean rags
- x-ray film
- motor vehicle batteries*
- architectural paint*
- gas bottles*

*refer to council's website for specific exclusions.

What if I see someone dumping goods illegally?

See it – Report it!

Council has partnered with the Department of Environment and Science to ramp up efforts to identify illegal dumpers through increased patrols and surveillance.

If you see someone dumping goods illegally you can report it to Council's Illegal Dumping Team via:

- online form
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/illegaldumping
- email mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
- phoning 5475 7272.

Fines for illegal dumping

Illegal dumping is a crime and you can be reported and fined.

Fines for illegal dumping range from \$2135 to \$133,450.

Further Information

Additional information or advice regarding illegal dumping can be obtained from www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/illegaldumping or by contacting Council.

Sunshine Coast Council

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

T 07 5475 7272 F 07 5475 7277

Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

Current as at 1 July 2020.