



ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal Dumping (ID) is disposing of waste in unauthorised or unpermitted areas. ID is commonly found in vacant blocks of land, along roadways, in car parks, in the bush, beside garbage skips, bins or charity bins. Most ID is done either to avoid disposal fees at landfills or the time and effort required for proper disposal.

Illegally dumped material is one of the most visible signs of environmental pollution, however unscrupulous members of the community may also go to great lengths to hide the material they have dumped illegally, in order to avoid detection and potential fines.

Illegally dumped material often includes garden waste, tyres, building (construction and demolition) material, household furniture, electrical goods, cars and other vehicles, household waste and timber.

Illegally dumped material:

- Is a waste of potential resources. Materials such as timber, electrical goods or garden waste could all be reused or the resources recovered in some way. By dumping the materials they pollute the environment and eventually end up in landfill where they can no longer be used.
- Has the potential to cause serious health risks by attracting rodents, insects and other animals.
- Is a magnet for additional material.
- Degrades the local environment and generates considerable community concern.
- Costs the community a great deal of money to clean up. Large amounts of money are also spent on prosecuting offenders and running education programs.
- Looks unpleasant.

NSW now has some hefty fines for illegal dumpers who dispose of waste in a way that is harmful to the environment, who transport waste unlawfully and who allow people to dump materials on their land that is not a licensed waste facility.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Report any ID to your local council.
- If you need to dispose of large items, consider a reuse or recycle option before disposal. If you must dispose of something, take it to a landfill site yourself if you can.
- Take responsibility for your waste. Never illegally dump materials.
- Use your council household waste collection services to dispose of large items.
- Keep your neighbourhood clean and litter free.
- When hiring a waste contractor to dispose of household garbage, building waste etc, be careful who you hire. Ensure that the contractor is taking your waste to a registered landfill site. Ask them to tell you where your waste is going.
- If you need to dispose of household hazardous waste, take it to a licensed facility or use a licensed chemical disposal contractor.

MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your local council for information about ID in your area.
- Contact the NSW Environment Protection Authority for information about legislation that covers ID - 131 555 (Pollution Line); www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste
- Contact Resource NSW – they run programs designed to combat ID – www.resource.nsw.gov.au or 02 8837 6000.
- The NSW Environment Protection Authority also has information about waste and illegal dumping. Go to www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/index.htm