

---

**Dumpsites serve as magnets for additional dumping**

---

As a result of illegal dumping, property values decrease and the community becomes unattractive to commercial and residential developers. Without the tax revenues that accompany development, the funding available to establish and maintain effective illegal dumping prevention programs is limited.

Finally, the costs to Douglas County and its' cities and towns associated with continuous clearing of illegally dumped waste materials are significant. These costs are passed along to all of us in the form of higher service fees or taxes. Illegal dumping is not free. It costs us all!



**What is being done?**

In 1995, Douglas County adopted a *Uniform Litter Control Code* (C.E. 95-069B), which prohibits the illegal dumping of solid waste upon any property within the unincorporated areas of the County.

Want to litter or illegally dump? Fine.	
Beverage Can	\$ 50
Fast Food Bag	\$ 50
Glass Bottle	\$ 171
Lit Cigarette	\$ 500
Illegal Dumping	\$100 - \$5000 + jail time

Get caught littering or illegally dumping, and you'll feel a sharp and unpleasant pain in the wallet. If you see someone littering or dumping, remind them how much littering hurts by reporting their license number.

Graphic 19.81 8/08

REPORT VIOLATORS  
866-LITTER-1

**How can I help?**

Enforcement officers are not the only people who can put an end to illegal dumping. You can help stop illegal dumping by:

- ❖ Reporting any illegal dump sites and illegal dumping to the Chelan-Douglas Health District at (509) 886-6450.
- ❖ Reporting the license plate numbers of any vehicles involved in illegally dumping or suspicious behavior to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office at 9-1-1.
- ❖ Reporting identified illegal dumps within the unincorporated areas of Douglas County to the Countywide Solid Waste Programs Office at (509) 886-0899 so that they can be placed on a clean-up list.
- ❖ Spreading the word to your friends and neighbors that illegal dumping is a crime with penalties!



For more information on waste reduction and recycling options in Douglas County, please contact:

**Countywide Solid Waste Programs  
(509) 886-0899**



**ILLEGAL DUMPING**



**within  
DOUGLAS  
COUNTY**

Illegal dumping occurs in numerous ways throughout Douglas County. The primary reason most people illegally dump their trash is to avoid the cost of proper disposal. Illegal dumping can be anything from littering (throwing an empty can out your vehicle window), dumping household trash in rural areas, placing your household garbage in your employer's dumpster and even placing your trash in your neighbor's driveway on his pickup day. Whether you destroy the beauty of our environment or have someone else unknowingly pay for your costs of trash disposal, it's still *illegal dumping*.



With over 80% of Douglas County consisting of private lands, every time someone illegally dumps their garbage, odds are it will end up on someone else's property. Although the cost of disposal on a month's worth of household trash may be less than twenty dollars, illegal dumping may cost the property owner hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of dollars! If the garbage ends up on County property or right-of-way, it costs an average of \$85 per hour for the County to collect, transport and dispose of the garbage properly. Plus, the time and effort spent also diverts the County crews and equipment from their regular duties of providing services to the Citizens of Douglas County.

## What is ILLEGAL DUMPING?

Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste in an unpermitted area. It is also referred to as 'open dumping', 'fly dumping' and 'midnight dumping' because materials are often dumped in open areas, from vehicles along roadsides, and late at night. Illegally dumped wastes are primarily nonhazardous materials that are dumped to avoid either disposal fees or the time and effort required for proper disposal. These materials typically include:

- ◆ construction and demolition wastes such as drywall, roofing, shingles, lumber, bricks, concrete and siding
- ◆ Abandoned automobiles, auto parts and scrap tires
- ◆ Appliances or 'whitegoods'
- ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Yard waste
- ◆ Household trash

Wastes such as automobiles, scrap tires, bulky items and yard waste are primarily illegally dumped because their proper disposal can be costly. Residential and commercial wastes may be illegally dumped in areas that lack or have costly pickup service.



Sites used for illegal dumping vary, but may include abandoned buildings, vacant lots, infrequently-used roadways and remote sites. Because of their accessibility and poor lighting, areas along rural roads are particularly vulnerable. Illegal dumping can occur at any time of the day, but is more common at night or in the early morning hours during warmer months.

If not addressed, illegal dumps often attract more waste, potentially including hazardous wastes such as asbestos, household chemicals, paints, automotive fluids, commercial wastes and pesticides.

## Why is illegal dumping such a problem?

The health risks associated with illegal dumping are significant. Areas used for illegal dumping may be easily accessible to people, especially children, who are vulnerable to the physical (protruding nails or sharp edges) and chemical (harmful fluids or dust) hazards posed by wastes. Rodents, insects and other vermin attracted to dump sites may also pose health risks. Dump sites with scrap tires provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos. In addition, countless neighborhoods have been evacuated and property damage has been significant because of dumpsites that caught fire, either by spontaneous combustion or, more commonly, by arson. Illegal dumping can impact proper drainage of runoff, making areas more susceptible to flooding when wastes block ravines, creeks, culverts and drainage basins.

