

Difference between littering and dumping

States often distinguish between littering and illegal dumping. The difference is determined by the type and volume of waste. For example, improperly disposing of a small amount of typical household garbage, such as a soda can onto the side of the road, is littering. On the other hand, dumping a larger volume of household waste, an old refrigerator, would constitute illegal dumping.



About Illegal Dumping

We have all seen it, that old couch, pile of tires even old outdated appliances lying discarded on the sides of our roads, canals, rivers and even our own backyards. Although it might not seem like much of a problem illegal dumping is a major problem for both the environment and politicians. Illegal dumping also known as unlawful dumping is the act of dumping waste on public or private property that is not licensed or permitted to receive waste. If left unchecked this plays cause to serious health concerns for both the public and the environment.

Lower Rio Grande
Valley Storm Water
Task Force

The Harmful Effect
of Illegal Dumping



Environmental Health concerns

Unlawful dumping pollutes natural animal habitats and can lead to the death of fish, birds and small animals. Some of the trash we dispose of is toxic if consumed by animals, and if these toxic wastes end up in water bodies, it becomes dangerous to aquatic life. It can also lead to storm water runoff problems by carrying pollutants into nearby water bodies and underground aquifers.



Cause and Effect

Usually trash disposal fees are too high for low-income residents to dispose of major items, most of which are uninformed about alternatives to and the effects of illegal dumping. This causes government officials thousands of dollars per year with labor fees in order to clean up contaminated sites and property. Illegal dumping get you know where not only do you leave an unpleasant site to see but it can raise public and environmental health concerns as well.

Consequence's

Being caught dumping unlawfully can lead to hefty fines upwards or \$5,000 as well as being charged with a felony in many cases.

Public Health Concern

- Decomposing garbage and other solid waste can provide food and habitat for rats, other rodents and other disease animals.
- Dumping hazardous materials can cause direct effects on people's health, and can get into the water supply and create negative health effects on people and the environment.
- Illegal dumping creates eyesores on our streets, reducing our quality of life, property values, and a feeling of safety and well-being in our communities.

