

Love Queensland Let's keep it clean



You make a difference.

It's damaging Queensland

Littering and illegal dumping is a serious issue. It pollutes our environment and significantly diminishes the use, enjoyment and value of our public places for residents and tourists. It can facilitate the spread of disease and pest species, and harm wildlife, people and livestock.

Littering and illegal dumping costs Queensland businesses and communities millions of dollars each year in waste management, including clean-up expenses. Queenslanders want and deserve a clean and safe environment with the majority saying it's not OK to use our environment as a rubbish dump.

What is littering?

Littering is the unlawful deposit of any type of waste material of an amount less than 200 litres in volume (about the volume of an average wheelie bin).

Common littered items include:

- cigarette butts
- drink bottles and fast food packaging
- food scraps like apple cores
- material falling off a trailer because it was uncovered or poorly secured
- grass clippings swept into the gutter
- items beside an overflowing bin.

Dangerous littering is litter that causes, or is likely to cause, harm to a person, property or the environment. This may include throwing a lit cigarette butt into bushland, leaving a hypodermic needle in a park, or smashing a glass bottle on the footpath.



What is illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping is the unlawful deposit of any type of waste material of an amount of 200 litres in volume (about the volume of an average wheelie bin) or more.

Common illegally dumped items include:

- household rubbish and garden waste
- household goods (such as whitegoods, TVs, mattresses and furniture), including items left on footpaths
- building waste (construction and demolition materials)
- tyres, chemical drums, and paint tins
- asbestos.



Let's work together

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) works closely with local governments, the community, and non-for-profit and industry groups to develop programs and compliance actions targeting littering and illegal dumping issues in Queensland.

However everyone can help encourage people to dispose of their waste responsibly. Most people do the right thing by holding on to their rubbish until they can access a bin, or by using their local council waste facility. It is those minor few that do the wrong thing and cause harm.

The *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* contains provisions specifically allowing members of the public to do their part by reporting littering and illegal dumping offences to EHP.



- ▶ see it
- ▶ report it
- ▶ stop it



How can I report?

Doing the right thing is easy. If you witness someone littering from a vehicle, trailer or vessel you can report them online at www.ehp.qld.gov.au or phone **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** for a reporting form.

You can also report a littering and illegal dumping incident as you witness it occurring via your smart phone or tablet, pin the location through Google Maps and upload photos.

If you find illegally dumped material you can report it to your local council office or to EHP online at www.ehp.qld.gov.au, or phone **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** or by emailing illegaldumping@ehp.qld.gov.au



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Please remember it is illegal to use your mobile phone while driving. The best way to record information is to utilise passengers and dash cams or safely pull over and take down the details of what you saw.

For your own safety, under no circumstance approach the person depositing the waste.



What do I report?

When reporting it is important that you take down as many details as possible. This includes:

- time and date
- place and address
- vehicle/vessel registration number
- make and model of the vehicle/vessel
- colour of the vehicle/vessel
- distinguishing features of the vehicle/vessel (stickers, dented panels, modifications)
- description of the person (including location in the vehicle, clothing and gender).

EHP can issue an infringement notice to the registered owner of a vehicle/vessel based on your report. In order to submit the report you must be willing to testify in court. It should be noted that typically only a very small number of cases proceed to court.

If you discover illegal dumping in your travels, please do not disturb the site. It can hinder evidence collection and may contain hazardous materials.

Upon receiving the report, Litter and Illegal Dumping Unit officers will contact complainants to confirm the details and obtain a witness statement. To enable this, ensure that full contact details have been included in the report. All witness details are treated confidentially.

Fines

Penalties start from \$252 for littering and \$2,018 for illegal dumping offences and differ for individuals and corporations. The penalties vary for:

- general littering
- dangerous littering
- illegal dumping of 2500 litres or less
- illegal dumping exceeding 2500 litres.

A full list of penalty amounts for littering and illegal dumping can be viewed via the EHP website www.ehp.qld.gov.au/waste

Further information

For further information regarding littering or illegal dumping:

Website: www.ehp.qld.gov.au/waste
Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Email: illegaldumping@ehp.qld.gov.au
Mail: Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Litter and Illegal Dumping Unit
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane QLD 4001