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The Problem of Open Dumping



Open dumping is the **illegal** act of throwing trash and wastes in places other than state permitted landfills or disposal facilities. It threatens *human health, wildlife, and the environment.*



Indiana's regulation (329 Indiana Administrative Code 10) states *"No person shall cause or allow the storage, containment, processing, or disposal of solid waste in a manner which creates a threat to human health or the environment, including the creating of a fire hazard, vector attraction, air or water pollution, or other contamination."*



Quite simply, the risks are too great.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is working with other government agencies to curb open dumping. You also can help keep Indiana's environment healthy and clean by refraining from open dumping and taking action if you see dumped trash and wastes.



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Understand The Hazards

People who illegally open dump trash and wastes do so at these types of locations:

- Along roadsides and in ditches.
- Secluded and forested areas.
- Vacant lots on public or private property.
- Remote roadways, alleys, and pastures.
- Ravines, river and creek banks.
- Abandoned industrial or commercial sites.



Materials typically dumped include:

- Abandoned vehicles, parts, and tires.
- Household garbage.
- Furniture and appliances.
- Household hazardous wastes: *used oil, weed killer, paint thinners, swimming pool chemicals, gasoline, fluorescent light bulbs, and batteries.*
- Construction and demolition waste: *drywall, shingles, lumber, bricks, concrete, and siding.*



Materials that are not considered trash or waste:

- **Uncontaminated:** *rocks, bricks, concrete, road demolition waste materials or soil.*
- **Uncontaminated and untreated natural growth solid waste** including: *tree limbs, stumps, leaves, and grass clippings.*
- Sawdust that is derived from processing untreated wood.



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Recognize Dumped Items

Open dumping creates many health, safety and environmental problems, including the following:

- Soil and water contamination.
- Plant and wildlife habitat damage.
- Mosquito breeding areas.
- Rodent attraction.
- Tire fires.



Keep in mind that it is illegal to bury or open burn on the ground any trash or wastes.

Any person who is proven to have illegally dumped is responsible for **paying** the cost of **the clean-up**. Also, the individual **must properly dispose** of the **trash or waste** at a state permitted **solid waste landfill, transfer station, solid waste processing facility, recycling center, or incinerator**.

Everyone pays if the violator cannot be located. The **cost** of the **clean-up falls** to the **current property owner** or the **taxpayer**. **Clean-up costs** can reach **thousands of dollars**. **Hoosiers lose** additional **services** their tax dollars could otherwise have provided.

In addition to paying for the **clean-up, individuals may** be personally **affected** financially **by declining property values** due to the open dumping.

IDEM encourages Hoosiers to
reduce, reuse and recycle.



Buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste.

Donate gently used clothing and household items to local charities to reuse.

Haul glass, aluminum cans, plastics, newspapers and corrugated cardboard to the recycling center.

Compost your leaves, grass clippings, weeds, and kitchen scraps.

Many communities also offer **household hazardous waste disposal** options. Citizens should contact their local **solid waste management district** for information on how to **properly dispose** items, such as *paints, cleaners, used tires, used oil or gasoline, electronics, and old appliances*. And to learn how to **lessen your impact** on the **environment** by **reducing, reusing and recycling**, visit: **www.recycle.IN.gov**

Report Illegal Dumps to
The Indiana Department of Environmental Management

By phone:
(800) 451-6027 or
(317) 308-3040

By mail:
100 North Senate Avenue
MC 65-45-2 IGCN N045
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

For more information, visit:
www.idem.IN.gov
www.recycle.IN.gov



Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Open Dumping in Indiana

What you need to know

How to
Recognize and Understand
The Problem of Open Dumping

Indiana Department of
Environmental Management

Office of Land Quality

www.idem.IN.gov

