

Illegal Dumping FAQs:

Frequently asked questions



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GENERAL

What is illegal (unlawful) dumping?

Illegal (unlawful) dumping is the dropping, dumping, placing, or throwing of any waste onto public or private property without the approval of the property owner.

What are the effects of illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping attracts insects (such as mosquitos and flies), rats, skunks, and possums that carry diseases including Dengue Fever, Yellow Fever and Encephalitis and Malaria. Other life threatening diseases like Cholera, Dysentery and Leptospirosis are known to spread through contaminated water and can cause serious health epidemics in a population. Another example of the impacts of illegal dumping is soil contamination, which occurs when hazardous chemicals meet the soil.

AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

How do I stop illegal dumping on my property?

Here are some recommended ways you can deter dumping on your property:

1. Call OAK 311 to report dumping and/or dumper
2. Use Security Cameras to catch dumpers
3. Put up "No Dumping & No Trespassing" Signs
4. Secure Your Area
5. Contact the Environmental Enforcement Office by calling 510-434-5110

Is it illegal dumping if I leave furniture or other items on the curb as free giveaways for people to take?

Yes, it is considered illegal dumping to leave furniture, appliances, garbage bags, or any material on the sidewalk/curb unless you have a scheduled pick up from a donation facility or from Waste Management.

If you wish to give away usable items, contact a nonprofit organization that will provide curbside pickup service by appointment. To schedule a free pickup with Waste Management, residential customers paying for garbage service can call (510) 613-8710.

As landlord, am I responsible for illegal dumping by my tenant(s)?

Yes. Per Oakland Municipal Code (OMC 8.11.550), **landlords are responsible** for dumping by their tenants.

RIGHT WAYS TO GET RID OF MY TRASH

What is the proper way of disposing my trash?

To dispose of waste materials properly, Oaklanders should:

- Check to see if you have enough trash service, if you find that you often cannot fit all of your trash into the container, please contact Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 about increasing your service.
- Sort your trash for recycling or composting as much as possible before using the trash container.
- Use the correct trash, recycling and organics container to dispose of your household waste.
- For large items such as furniture, appliances, mattresses, tires and other bulky material, schedule a bulky waste pickup appointment with Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.

How do I get rid of stuff that don't fit in the trash containers?

Oakland residents with proof of residency may drop off their bulky items for free. Free Bulky Block Parties are held the last Saturday of every month from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Visit the [Oakland Recycles Website](#) for more info.

Oakland residential customers paying for garbage service can also call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 to schedule a pickup of your bulky item(s). You are allotted one free appointment per calendar year.

I'm a tenant. Can I schedule my own bulky waste pickup with Waste Management?

No. You will need to ask your landlord to schedule the bulky waste pickup with Waste Management for you unless your landlord already has a Tenant Waiver Form on file with Waste Management.

Where can I dispose of household hazardous waste?

Oakland residents with proof of residency may drop off their household hazardous waste, such as paint, motor oil, etc..., Wednesdays through Fridays (9:00am – 2:30pm) and Saturdays (9:00am – 4:00pm) at the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2100 East 7th Street. Check out www.oaklandrecycles.com for more info.

Who can I call for additional waste disposal related questions?

Any waste related questions can be answered through the City of Oakland's Recycling Hotline at (510) 238-SAVE (7283) or recycling@oaklandca.gov.

CITATION, APPEAL, & COMMUNITY SERVICE

What happens if I'm caught dumping?

If caught dumping, the City will either issue you:

1. An Administrative Citation (fine), or
2. A fine and a "24-hr to Abate" Notice.

You will be responsible for paying the fine as well as any removal and disposal costs the City may incur if you do not properly dispose of the waste material within the terms of the 24-hr to Abate Notice.

I received a 24-hour to Abate Notice, what do I do?

To avoid getting charged the City's cost to abate the abandoned garbage, properly dispose of the waste material via Waste Management Bulky Waste Pickup or self-haul to the nearest garbage dump.

If the dumped material does not belong to you or your tenant(s), please contact citing Environmental Enforcement Officer listed on the 24-hour to Abate Notice or call OAK311.

I received a 24-hour to Abate Notice, but the trash is not mine. What do I do?

Contact the citing Environmental Enforcement Officer listed on the 24-hour to Abate Notice or call OAK311.

I received an Administrative Citation, what do I do?

If you receive an Administrative Citation, you can:

- Pay the fine.
- Appeal the citation within 15 business days (not including holidays) by completing and returning the Appeal Request Form accompanying your citation or download the Appeal Form from the City of Oakland website. ([Link to Appeal Form](#))
- Submit a written request to perform community service instead of paying the fine within 15 business days (not including holidays).

Example: If the Administrative Citation was dated Thursday, May 14, 2020, the 15-day business day (excluding holidays) deadline to appeal the citation and/or request community service in lieu of paying the fine is Friday, Jun 5, 2020. In order to account for Memorial Day falling on Monday, May 25, 2020, the deadline was extended from Jun 4 to Jun 5, 2020.

I'm a tenant. Shouldn't the Administrative Citation I received go to the Landlord?

The person named on the Administrative Citation is responsible for the citation. The Environmental Enforcement Officers issue citations based on evidence found in or around the dumped material and through interviews to identify the individual or household from which the debris originated.

I want to appeal the Administrative Citation. Do I have to pay the fine first?

In place of charging a \$124 Appeal Filing Fee, the City of Oakland requires an appellant to show proof of payment of the fine at the time of submitting an appeal request. If you are unable to pay the fine but wish to appeal your citation, simply select the option to perform community service instead of paying the fine in the event your appeal is denied.

I am unable to pay the fine, what can I do?

If you are unable to pay the fine, performing community service is an option. Remember to make that request in writing within 15 business days of the citation date (not including holidays), or the City will assume you will pay the fine.

How do I request community service instead of paying the fine?

Send a written request for community service to: Illegal Dumping – Community Service Request, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, #1324, Oakland, CA 94612, or via email to: EEOinfo@oaklandca.gov

Where do I send my request for community service?

Send your written request for community service to: Illegal Dumping – Community Service Request, 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, #1324, Oakland, CA 94612, or via email to: EEOinfo@oaklandca.gov

I want to appeal the Administrative Citation, but I missed the deadline to file. What now?

You will need to pay the fine.

I want to request Community Service instead of paying the fine, but I missed the deadline to file. What now?

You will need to pay the fine.

How many community service hours will I have to perform?

The number of community service hours is determined by the amount of the fine and the City of Oakland's current minimum wage. For example: minimum wage for 2020 = \$14.14; if your fine is \$100, the number of community service hours you must performed is: 7.07 hours.

BULKY WASTE PICKUP

How many bulky waste pickups am I allowed per year?

A household may receive **one pick-up per calendar year (January-December)**.

I'm a tenant. Can I schedule my own bulky waste pickup with Waste Management?

No. You will need to ask your landlord to schedule the bulky waste pickup with Waste Management for you unless your landlord already has a Tenant Waiver Form on file with Waste Management.

I'm a tenant. How can I schedule a bulky waste pickup with Waste Management?

There are two ways:

- Ask your landlord to schedule with Waste Management for you. The Oakland Municipal Code requires landlords to provide tenants with access to bulky pickup services (OMC 8.28.140.D).
- Get your landlord to file a Tenant Waiver Form with Waste Management, then tenants can schedule their own bulky pickups directly with Waste Management.

How can I get a Tenant Waiver Form for my landlord to sign?

There are three ways of getting a Tenant Waiver Form:

- Use this link to download the form.
- Contact Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 or csnorthbay@wm.com to request the form.
- Contact the City of Oakland's Recycling Hotline at (510) 238-SAVE (7283) or recycling@oaklandca.gov to request the form.

How do I report a missed bulky waste pickup?

Contact the City of Oakland's Recycling Hotline at (510) 238-SAVE (7283) or recycling@oaklandca.gov to report your missed bulky waste pickup appointment.

