

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
- description of the waste
- 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)

The Queensland Government 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 compliance officers may 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 \$266 for littering and \$2135 for illegal dumping offences and differ for individuals and corporations.

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



Further information

For further information regarding littering or illegal dumping:

- Website:** www.qld.gov.au/litter
Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Email: illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au
Mail: Department of Environment and Science
Litter and Illegal Dumping Programs
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane QLD 4001

Litter and illegal dumping



- ▶ see it
- ▶ report it
- ▶ stop it

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 weeds 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 containers and fast food packaging
- food scraps like apple cores
- material falling off a trailer because it was uncovered or poorly secured
- small appliances or bags of clothing
- 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 syringe in a park, or smashing a glass bottle on the footpath.



How long until it's gone?



Cigarette Butts
up to 12 years*



Aluminum can
200 years



Glass bottle
1 million years



Plastic Bottle
450 years**

*The cellulose acetate (plastic) in filters never truly breaks down and remains in the environment forever.

** Petrochemical (plastic) products never truly breakdown and remain in the environment forever.

What is illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of any type of waste material of an amount of 200 litres in volume or more.

Illegal dumping can occur in many areas including:

- bushland, parks and forests
- roadsides
- outside of charity bins and shops
- on the kerbside (outside of collection time).

Common illegally dumped items include:

- household rubbish
- green waste
- household goods (such as whitegoods, TVs, mattresses and furniture)
- building waste (construction and demolition materials)
- tyres
- chemical drums and paint tins
- asbestos.

Let's work together

The Queensland Government 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 onto their rubbish until they can access a bin, or by using their local council waste transfer station. Check out your local council website for information on your nearest landfill or waste transfer station, the opening hours, tipping costs and items that you can tip for free, including green waste.

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 the Queensland Government.

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.qld.gov.au/litter or phone **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** for a reporting form.

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