

The Dumpster Law

What You Need to Know



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

The Honorable Michael Nutter, Mayor

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DUMPSTER LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dumpster users who do not comply with the Dumpster Code provisions may be fined and may have their Business Privilege License revoked.

Dumpsters placed on the public right-of-way without a license will be presumed to be abandoned and subject to removal.

HOW DO I APPEAL THE PLACEMENT OF A DUMPSTER NEAR MY HOME?

Call (215) 686-2490 to find out if the dumpster is licensed. If the dumpster is licensed, you may file an appeal to the Licenses & Inspections Review Board, (215) 686-2428. If it is not licensed, see the following question.

HOW DO I COMPLAIN ABOUT A DUMPSTER THAT VIOLATES THE LAW?

SWEEP is the primary enforcer of the dumpster law. You may report an unlicensed dumpster to SWEEP through the Streets Department's Customer Affairs Unit at (215) 686-5560. In sections of the city not yet serviced by SWEEP, the Police Department's Neighborhood Services Unit at (215) 685-3097 or your Police District's Sanitation Officer can enforce the law. The Department of Health, (215) 685-5499, will enforce the regulations that govern food disposal.

All City Services

Phone: 311

Streets Department Internet site: www.phila.gov/streets

Streets Department Customer Service

Phone: (215) 686-5560

On Cellular phones: *FIX

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DUMPSTER USERS HAVE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES!

Dumpster Identification

Every dumpster should have the hauler's name or company logo, telephone number, and a unique identification number. The user is required to be identified on the dumpster.

Emptying

All dumpsters are required to be emptied *at least once a week*. If they contain "non-grindable" food waste, they should be emptied *every three days*. (Additional collection(s) may be required by the city.)

Cleaning

Dumpsters should be kept clean, in good repair, and free of offensive odors. They should be cleaned a minimum of two times a year. (Additional cleaning may be required by the city.) Cleaning dumpsters on the street or sidewalk is not permitted.

Grindable Food Waste

Dumpsters may not be used for the disposal of grindable garbage. All food-hauling establishments are required to install garbage disposals for disposal of grindable garbage.

Litter-free

The area surrounding each dumpster should be maintained free of litter, lids should be kept tightly secured when not in use, and dumpsters should not be overflowing with debris.

Screening

Dumpsters located on private property should be screened from public view by shrubbery, an opaque fence, a shed, or other such device.

IT'S THE LAW

As the use of dumpsters increased, citizens and businesses expressed concern to the city about the public hazard and litter created by dumpsters. In response to this situation, City Council passed an ordinance in June 1989 requiring the licensing of dumpsters and regulating their use.

Now, every dumpster user in the city requires approval to use and place a dumpster. Dumpster haulers need to meet a number of performance standards.

This brochure was created in an attempt to answer your questions about the use of dumpsters. If you still have questions regarding the dumpster code, contact the Streets Department's *Streets & Walkways Education & Enforcement Program (SWEEP)* Unit by calling the Customer Affairs Unit at (215) 686-5560.



PHILADELPHIA REQUIRES EVERY DUMPSTER USER TO OBTAIN A LICENSE

WHO IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A DUMPSTER LICENSE?

Chapter 10-722 of the Philadelphia Code indicates that the user (not the hauler) is required to obtain a license for a dumpster in excess of one cubic yard. (See exclusions below.)

TYPES OF DUMPSTER LICENSES

•Private Property

A dumpster license is issued when a dumpster is placed on private property. Private property also includes parking lots, private alleys and driveways. *A one-time fee of \$50 is required.*

NOTE: Newly-constructed buildings and also buildings that have modified their usage *are required* to provide trash storage inside the building.

•Public Right-of-Way

An annual license is issued for a dumpster in the public right-of-way (sidewalk only). *A fee of \$300 is required.*

NOTE: You are required to complete a questionnaire that shows your need for placement in the public right-of-way.

EXCLUSIONS

Dumpsters One-Cubic Yard or Less

Dumpsters one-cubic yard or less are considered trash cans. Since trash cans are not permitted for public right-of-way storage, they are required to be stored in or on private property. Commercial set-out regulations apply to trash cans.

Temporary Construction Dumpsters

Temporary construction dumpsters that are placed in the public right-of-way require a special permit. To apply for an application, please contact the Streets Department's Customer Affairs Unit at (215) 686-5560 or call *FIX on your cellular phone.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A DUMPSTER APPLICATION?

Applications can be obtained by contacting the Department of Licenses & Inspections at (215) 686-2490, or by mail as follows:

Department of Licenses & Inspections
License Issuance Unit
MSB -- Concourse Level
1401 JFK Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

WHAT IS CONSIDERED WHEN REVIEWING A LICENSE APPLICATION?

For dumpster placement in the public right-of-way, the width of the sidewalk, volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and availability of alternative trash handling methods are considered. In instances where a dumpster may impede pedestrian passage or offend nearby residents, users may be required to handle their trash in an alternate manner that does not require a dumpster. Dumpsters will not be approved on the public right-of-way in predominately residential blocks or retail/commercial strips.

IF MY APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE IS REJECTED, HOW DO I APPEAL?

Anyone rejected for a dumpster license may appeal the decision to the Licenses & Inspections Review Board, Municipal Services Building, Concourse Level at (215) 686-2428.