

Illegal Dumping

Abandoned piles of household garbage, bags of yard waste, discarded appliances, old barrels, used tires and demolition debris can threaten the health of humans, wildlife and the environment. These open dumps can be found throughout the NT; on Crown land, at the bottom of ravines, in empty lots and pastures, and along roadsides. These are illegal disposal sites. If allowed to remain, they often grow larger and attract more dumping by others.

Open dumps create a public nuisance, divert land from more productive uses and depress the value of surrounding land. They can also pose the following health, safety and environmental threats:

- Fire and explosion
- Injury to children playing in or around the dump site
- Disease carried by mosquitoes, flies and rodents
- Contamination of streams, rivers and lakes
- Contamination of soil and groundwater
- Contamination of drinking water wells
- Damage to plant and wildlife habitats
- Decrease in the quality of life to nearby communities and residents

How to Report Illegal Dumping

Causing or allowing open dumping is illegal and contravenes the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*. Subsequent prosecution may result in substantial penalties as outlined in the *Offences and Penalties Act*. Report open dumping to the Pollution Hotline of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (EHA) Division.

The EHA Division is committed to investigating public reports of illegal dumping of Solid Waste amongst other polluting activities. Complaint investigators are located in either of the main regional centres, Darwin and Alice Springs. While not every complaint can be solved quickly, we are committed to investigating promptly and taking appropriate action.

Whilst you may file a complaint directly with the EHA Division you can also use a Pollution Hotline free call number 1800 06 4567. The receiver of your complaint will note the details of your call and relay them to an appropriate complaint investigator.

You are encouraged to provide as much information as possible about the dump, including a detailed description and information about its location (address, driving directions, etc.). If you are actually witnessing a person committing the offence of illegal dumping try to ascertain the **vehicle registration number and type of vehicle** being used. This information will help to speed up our investigation process.

You may remain anonymous. We only ask for your identity so we can contact you in case we need more information to investigate your complaint and to provide you with information on the results of our investigation. Despite the best intentions, anonymous complaints often do not provide enough information to pursue the complaint properly. If you wish to remain anonymous and do not provide enough information, we will be unable to investigate your complaint.

To report illegal dumping use our please address the questions in the accompanying form. You can use this form to assist you in relaying the necessary information to the Pollution Hotline or simply write in the form and fax it to (08) 8924 4053

Illegal Dumping Complaint Form

(Fax to (08) 8924 4053 or use as a prompt for your call to the Pollution Response Line)

Use this form to send a complaint to us about an illegal dumping problem.

At your request, we will provide you with information on the outcome of our investigation by email, telephone or in writing.

Thank you for taking the time to report this information and helping to protect our environment.

Your Name, Address, Contact number (optional).

Do you wish to be contacted? (Circle one of the following) YES/NO

Date you noticed the waste having been dumped or being dumped.

Type of Waste (place a tick besides one or more of the following)

Household waste

Construction or Demolition waste

Tyres

Chemicals

Other (describe)

Estimate the amount of waste dumped i.e. nos. of bags, a ute or truck load

If you observed a vehicle being used, describe its make/model, company or personal logo and registration number. If you know who dumped the waste provide this information as well

Describe the location of the dumpsite. Be as specific as possible for example on the right hand side of Lee Point Road, 50 metres before the Buffalo Creek Rd turnoff heading out to Lee Point and 30 metres in from the road. If you know the lot number or the owner's details, provide these as well.

Has the waste been burned or buried

The information you provide will be forwarded to an appropriate regional office for investigation and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

For more information, contact:

Environment Heritage and the Arts Division

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport

PO Box 496, PALMERSTON NT 0831

Tel 08 8924 4139

Fax 08 8924 4053

Email envrionment.nretas@nt.gov.au