



Illegal Dumping

Category: Property Maintenance

Effective: July 1, 1996 *[Margaret M. Mahoney]*

Responsible Bureau Section: Housing and Nuisance
PO Box 8120
Portland, OR 97207-8120
503-823-7306

BACKGROUND

The Bureau's Neighborhood Inspection Section works to assist property owners and neighborhoods with illegal dumping problems. It is the property owner who is ultimately responsible for combating illegal dumping; but the City has some limited resources to assist owners of one or two family dwellings when the owners efforts to prevent dumping have failed.

Reporting

Reports or inquiries about illegal dumps can be made to the Neighborhood Inspections Section at 503-823-7306. We will need to know the address, or the approximate location of the dumped materials, and whether the property is vacant, a dwelling or duplex, or in other use.

The Neighborhood Inspections section will make an initial inspection of the property and then take the following actions:

Streets and One and Two Family Dwelling Properties

Where an illegal dump of materials is located in a public right of way (streets, alleys and sidewalks) or is located on one and two family dwelling properties, the City will arrange to have the dumped materials cleaned up. The City may advise the property owners of measures they could take which might reduce future dumping problems.

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If the City has evidence to indicate that the property owner or occupant is responsible for illegally dumping the materials, the inspector has the discretion to cite the materials as a nuisance.

Vacant Lots

Where an illegal dump of materials is located on vacant lots, the City will arrange to have the materials cleaned up one time only. In addition, the City will notify the property owner that the Bureau has cleaned up an illegal dump on the property and that the owner is responsible to take all steps possible to prevent future dumping on the property.

If additional dumping occurs, one of the following actions will occur:

1. If the City believes 1) the owner has acted responsibly to taking measures to prevent dumping; and 2) the dump is an immediate problem for the neighborhood, the inspector, after consulting with the supervisor, has the discretion to arrange for another clean-up; or
2. The City may cite the property as a nuisance.

Commercial and Apartment Properties

Where an illegal dump of materials is located on commercial properties including apartment buildings the City considers the owner responsible for maintaining the property in a way that will prevent dumping. The Bureau will not take any action to clean-up the property unless the dump is an immediate problem for the neighborhood. Where the dump is an immediate problem the City will cite the dumped material as a nuisance.

Cited Properties

Where it has become necessary to cite a property with an illegal dump of materials as a nuisance, the inspector will post a notice on the property. The posting will be followed by a letter giving the property owner 15 days to clean up the property. If, upon a follow up inspection, the property owner has not taken any action to clean up the property, the Bureau will arrange for clean up and then file a lien against the property to recover the costs of the clean-up.