

Open Dumping

What is it?

Open dumping is the improper disposal of any waste including household trash, garbage, tires, barrels, demolition/construction waste, appliances, shingles, pipes, metal, or any material which will rust, rot, or burn.

Where does it occur?

Whether it occurs on an open lot or pasture, down a ravine, along the roadside, in rural or urban communities, open dumping threatens the health and safety of everyone around it--especially children and older adults. It is also against the law.



Protect Yourself

What can you do to stop it?

Protect yourself from open dumping by:

- Restricting access to open fields or lots;
- Cleaning up dump sites immediately, (small sites quickly become big sites);
- Alerting your neighbors to problems; and
- Notify the Health Department, local law enforcement agencies, or the Illinois EPA.

If you observe someone open dumping, contact your local law enforcement agency. Write down vehicle descriptions, license numbers or any other information that identifies the dumper.



Is it a problem?

Besides looking bad and smelling worse, open dumps threaten surface and drinking water, provide breeding grounds for dangerous vectors such as rats (tetanus, rabies, etc), and mosquitoes (St. Louis Encephalitis). Open dumps also present a variety of safety risks from sharp objects or needles, combustible levels of explosive methane, and unstable slopes, which can shift and potentially injure or kill.

Open Burning

It's just a little fire!

It's more than a little fire, it's open burning. Open burning of wastes present many health and safety concerns for the citizens of St. Clair County. Illegally burned items such as garbage, plastic, shingles, tires, or construction/demolition waste release a myriad of pollutants into the air which not only look and smell bad, but also irritate the respiratory system, cause difficulty breathing, and can trigger asthma attacks.

Waste resulting from the operation of a business, not-for-profit organization, or governmental body can not be burned. These wastes are considered trade waste and to open burn them is a violation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.



If no other option is available, burning landscape waste (tree limbs, leaves, or grass clippings) is allowed, but only under the following conditions:

- On the premises where it was generated;
- it doesn't cause a visual hazard on roads;
- when atmospheric conditions allow adequate dispersal of pollutants.

Rules may vary among municipalities, contact your Village/City hall for requirements in your community.

To report open dumping/burning contact:

St. Clair County Health Department
(618) 233-7769

St. Clair County Sheriff
(618) 277-3500

Illinois Environmental Protection
Agency (Regional Office)
(618) 346-5120

Illinois State Police
(800) 255-3323

Attorney General
(888) ATTY-GEN
(888) 288-9436



ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
10 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 150
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62220-1624

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



What You Need to Know About Open Dumping



and Open Burning

Provided by:

St. Clair County Health Department
19 Public Square, Suite 150
Belleville, Illinois 62220-1624

together

for your health

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