

## **DUMPSTER USERS HAVE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES!**

### **Official L&I Dumpster Identification Medallions**

The Department, upon issuing the license, shall also issue to the licensee a medallion that uses UHF Radio frequency technology to electronically transmit: (1) the license number; (2) the name and telephone number of the licensee; (3) the name and telephone number of the provider; (4) the approved location. No dumpster shall be used in the City of Philadelphia if a medallion is not properly affixed or if the licensee knows that the medallion is not operational.

### **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-related 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.

## **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) 686-8686 or 311 to find out if the dumpster is licensed. If the dumpster is licensed, you may file an appeal with the Department of Licenses & Inspections. 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, or the Police Department’s Neighborhood Services Unit at (215) 685-9500 or your Police District’s Sanitation Officer can enforce the law.

### **All City Services**

**3-1-1**

### **Streets Department Internet site:**

**[www.philadelphiastreet.com](http://www.philadelphiastreet.com)**

### **Streets Department Customer Affairs**

**Phone: (215) 686-5560**

**On Cellular phones: \*FIX**

*Prepared by the Streets Department’s Planning and Public Affairs Office · Revised March 2017*

# **The Dumpster Law**



## **The Honorable James Kenney, Mayor**

Michael DiBerardinis, Managing Director  
Michael A. Carroll, P.E, Deputy Managing Director  
Carlton Williams, Streets Commissioner  
David J. Perri, P.E., L&I Commissioner

Interpreter services available. | خدمات الترجمة الشفهية متوفرة لدينا. | អាចផ្តល់សេវាបកប្រែទូទៅបាន។ | 提供口译服务 | Services d'interprétation disponibles. | 통역이 제공됩니다 | Предоставляются услуги устного переводчика. | Se brindan servicios de interpretación. | Có sẵn dịch vụ thông dịch.

## IT'S THE LAW

### What Is Considered A Dumpster?

Any container for refuse or recyclable material that is serviced by a Provider and is designed for repeated reuse. Does not include a container serviced by the City of Philadelphia. All construction dumpsters must obtain an annual license acquired by the hauler.

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 2009 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. To obtain the license application on-line, please visit: [www.phila.gov/li](http://www.phila.gov/li)

### Rigid Container Requirement

Recycled materials and municipal and/or residual waste placed on a public street, sidewalk, alley or any other public way or space for collection must be put in rigid containers equipped with lids prior to setout for collection, and during setout. Placing recycling or rubbish for collection in bags is prohibited.

### Setout Provisions

No dumpster shall be serviced between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

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## PHILADELPHIA REQUIRES EVERY DUMPSTER USER TO OBTAIN A LICENSE

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### Who Is Required To Obtain A Dumpster License?

Anyone who uses a container for refuse or recyclable materials, of any size, that is serviced by a private hauler.

### 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. One-time fees for dumpsters on private property are as follows:

Dumpster Size	Use	One-Time Fee
Less than 1 Cu. Yd.	Trash	\$80
Less than 1 Cu. Yd.	Recycling	\$40
Greater than or equal to 1 Cu. Yd.	Trash	\$150
Greater than or equal to 1 Cu. Yd.	Recycling	\$75

#### **Public Right-Of-Way**

An annual license is issued for a dumpster in the public-right-of-way( sidewalk only). Annual dumpster fee for public right-of-way placement as follows:

Dumpster Size	Use	Annual Fee
Less than 1 Cu. Yd.	Trash	\$200
Less than 1 Cu. Yd.	Recycling	\$100
Greater than or equal to 1 Cu. Yd.	Trash	\$500
Greater than or equal to 1 Cu. Yd.	Recycling	\$250

#### **Temporary Construction Dumpster**

Temporary Construction Dumpsters that are placed in public right-of-way require a special permit. To apply for an application, please contact the Streets Department's Right of Way Unit at (215) 686-5500/01/02/03 or visit the Municipal Services Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Fl., 1401 JFK Blvd.

#### **How Do I Obtain A Dumpster Application?**

Applications can be obtained by contacting the Department of Licenses & Inspections at (215) 686-8686, or 3-1-1

#### **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 with the Department of Licenses & Inspections at (215) 686-8686 or 311.