



New Regulations on Illegal Dumping and Littering

Illegal Dumping and Littering

Illegal dumping and littering continue to plague our communities, negatively affect economic development, decrease property values, and adversely impact the health and safety of our citizens. The County of San Mateo has enacted new regulations to help deter illegal dumping and littering and clean up our neighborhoods. North Fair Oaks has seen an increase in illegally dumped items such as:



Mattresses



Furniture



Appliances



Electronics



Bulky trash

Illegal Dumping and Littering is Against the Law

The County of San Mateo updated an Illegal Dumping Ordinance that deems illegal dumping and littering a public nuisance. Participating in illegal dumping and littering could result in criminal prosecution and/or civil fines and penalties amounting up to \$3,000.

What Happens if Someone is Caught Dumping Illegally or Littering?

Minor Violations will result in citations and fines ranging from \$100 to \$500. If someone receives three citations for illegal dumping or littering within 1 year, the fourth instance will be deemed a major violation.

Major Violations involve dumping a large amount of waste (1 cubic yard or more) or certain types of waste, such as harmful waste matter, mattresses or box springs, household furniture, appliances, or electronic waste. Offenders must clean up the waste within 24 hours of being notified, or will be subject to a fine of \$3,000.

Each individual act of illegal dumping will be considered a separate violation. In addition, every day illegally dumped waste remains after receiving notice to clean it up is a new and separate violation.

Who is Liable for Illegal Dumping or Littering?

Each person who participates in the act of illegal dumping or littering will be liable for all related citations, fines, penalties, damages, and costs. If a vehicle is used in the act of illegal dumping or littering, the vehicle owner could be held responsible, even if they were not behind the wheel. Property owners may be held responsible for items dumped by their tenants, and are responsible for all waste disposed on their property.

Best Advice: Be Smart!

Keep our neighborhood clean, prevent illegal dumping, and avoid any fees or citations by taking the necessary steps to properly dispose of your unwanted items. Learn more about the new illegal dumping and litter ordinance and what you can do to prevent illegal dumping at: <https://www.smcsustainability.org/waste-reduction/collection-services/illegal-dumping/>