

Good Housekeeping Practices for Commercial Dumpsters

Why is Dumpster Management Important?

Dumpsters that are not properly maintained not only draw flies and vermin but also can become a source of non-point source pollution. To keep rain from washing pollutants into local streams, several dumpster usage practices and good housekeeping practices are recommended for commercial, industrial, and municipal facilities.

What are the Dumpster Usage Practices?

Appropriate dumpster usage includes:

- Make sure the dumpster area remains clean and free of debris.
- Keep all dumpsters and other containers securely closed.
- Keep dumpster enclosure locked to keep out illegal dumping and large animals from entering.
- Locate dumpsters and other trash receptacles away from storm drain inlets and streams.
- If food waste or other moist waste is placed in the dumpster, consider covering the dumpster and placing a berm around it, and draining the dumpster area to the sanitary sewer.
- Pick up litter before washing dumpster areas and avoid washing grit and grime into the storm drainage system.
- Don't use soap or bleach when washing your dumpster area, unless it drains to the sanitary sewer.
- Clean up any spills with absorbent materials and dispose of the absorbent materials properly.



What are the Dumpster Good Housekeeping Practices?

Good housekeeping practices are aimed at reducing waste in the first place.

- Reduce waste: Look for ways to reduce waste before it is disposed.
- Identify whether or not the waste is hazardous and avoid hazardous products when you can.
- Reuse or recycle material when ever possible.
- Look to find vendors who recycle various liquid wastes.
- Compost plant wastes.
- Make sure leasing company maintains and cleans dumpsters regularly.
- Return leaking or damaged dumpsters for repair immediately.

What should be kept out of a Dumpster?

The following waste should be kept out of dumpsters:

- Hazardous material: oil based paints, stains, solvent, pesticides, asbestos, and medical waste
- Large bulky items: couches, chairs, and mattresses
- Liquid waste: grease, oil.
- Plant waste from landscaping.
- Construction, remodeling or demolition materials: roofing material, and shingles
- Automobile repair material: tires, used motor oil and filters, automobile batteries, and lead acid batteries
- Freon from household appliances.