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## DUMPSTER USERS HAVE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES!

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### Dumpster Identification

Every dumpster should have the hauler's name or company logo, telephone number, and a unique identification number. The user is required to be identified on the dumpster. Permits should be posted at the site of operation in a publicly accessible manner

### 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-hauling 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, covers (tarp) 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. Protective material shall be placed underneath dumpster to prevent damage to roadway.

## 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) 686-2490 to find out if the dumpster is licensed. If the dumpster is licensed, you may file an appeal to the Licenses & Inspections Review Board, (215) 686-2428. 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. In sections of the city not yet serviced by SWEEP, the Police Department's Neighborhood Services Unit at (215) 685-3097 or your Police District's Sanitation Officer can enforce the law. The Department of Health, (215) 685-5499, will enforce the regulations that govern food disposal.

**Streets Department Internet site:**  
[www.phila.gov/streets](http://www.phila.gov/streets)

**Streets Department Customer Service**  
**Phone:** (215) 686-5560  
**On Cellular phones:** \*FIX  
**Email:** [csstreets@phila.gov](mailto:csstreets@phila.gov)

Prepared by the Streets Department  
Planning and Public Affairs Office

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# Construction Dumpsters

## What You Need to Know



## CITY OF PHILADELPHIA The Honorable Michael Nutter, Mayor

Camille Cates Barnett, Ph.D., Managing Director  
Robert D. Solvibile, Sr., L&I Commissioner  
Clarena I. W. Tolson, Streets Commissioner  
Carlton Williams, Deputy Streets Commissioner

# IT'S THE LAW

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 June 1989 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.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED A CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTER?

Any container larger than a household trash can designed for the storage of any manner of waste, refuse or debris used in connection with any demolition, construction, cleaning, painting, building repair or similar process.

## 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.

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## PHILADELPHIA REQUIRES EVERY DUMPSTER USER TO OBTAIN A LICENSE

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### LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

#### **User/Contractor Responsibilities**

The owner of the construction dumpster shall obtain such a license by providing the Department of Licenses and Inspections with:

- 1) Identifying information regarding the dumpster and such other information required pursuant to a form provided by the Department of Licenses and Inspections.
- 2) Evidence of a \$1,500 bond or other similar security in a form satisfactory to the Law Department to indemnify the City for the cost of removal or relocation of a dumpster to remedy a violation of the Code of these regulations.

The annual fee for such license is \$60.00 per construction dumpster to be located in the public right of way.

#### **Hauler Responsibilities**

A hauler with multiple dumpsters in its inventory, but which at any one time will have less than 20% of its inventory located in the right-of-way, may obtain and use one or more "fleet licenses" on the following basis:

- 1) Three licenses shall be issued for each fleet license, to be affixed to three separate dumpsters.
- 2) The total number of licensed dumpsters the hauler may place in the right-of-way on any single day shall not exceed the total number of fleet licenses issued to the hauler.
- 3) The fee for a fleet license shall be \$60.

### Placement Notes

- Dumpsters shall not be placed within 15 ft of a fire hydrant, 20 ft of a crosswalk, and 30 ft of a stop sign or traffic signal.
- Dumpsters shall be covered by a tarpaulin when not in use.
- Dumpster shall be delivered, placed and removed without causing damage to the public right of way.
- Dumpster shall not be placed in travel lane, loading zone, or on the sidewalk, only in a parking lane.

### Temporary Construction Dumpsters

Temporary construction dumpsters that are placed in the public right-of-way require a special permit. To apply for an application, please contact the Streets Department's Customer Affairs Unit at (215) 686-5560 or call \*FIX on your cellular phone.

## HOW DO I OBTAIN A DUMPSTER APPLICATION?

Applications can be obtained by contacting the Streets Department Traffic Division at (215) 686-5525, or by mail as follows:

Streets Department  
Traffic Division  
MSB, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1401 JFK Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Permit applications shall be submitted on a form approved by the Department of Streets entitled "Equipment Placement Application for a Street Closure". Applications must be submitted a minimum of ten (10) business days prior to the proposed date of placement of the dumpster, except in the case of an emergency, as determined by the Department, in which case a permit may be issued based on application submitted less than ten days prior to the proposed date of placement.

## IF MY APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE IS REJECTED, HOW DO I APPEAL?

Anyone rejected for a dumpster license may appeal the decision to the Licenses & Inspections Review Board, Municipal Services Building, Concourse Level at (215) 686-2428.