

The Laws

Any littering and illegal dumping of trash is unlawful and violators can be prosecuted. There are many Pennsylvania (PA) agencies with the authority to enforce laws addressing improper disposal of trash. The PA General Assembly created and enacted our Commonwealth's littering and dumping laws. County and municipal governments create and enact ordinances at the local level.

Read about the PA Code at www.pacode.com.

LAW SUMMARY	PENALTY	ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (Within Jurisdictions)
<p>PA Vehicle Code, Title 75, Chapter 37 Covers litter and waste dropped, thrown or deposited from a vehicle that lands upon any highway, or upon any other public or private property without the consent of the property owner, or into or on the waters of this Commonwealth. Vehicle owners are responsible for anything thrown from their vehicles, even if the owner wasn't driving, or wasn't in the vehicle.</p>	<p>A summary offense and, upon conviction, may be sentenced to either or both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To pay a fine of not more than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$900 for a violation which occurs in an easement. \$600 for a violation which occurs in an agricultural security area. \$300 for a violation which occurs elsewhere To pick up and remove litter from public or private property...for not less than 8 hours nor more than 16 hours for the first conviction. 	<p>Local Police PA State Police PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of State Parks Bureau of Forestry (in state parks & forests only)</p>
<p>PA Crimes Code, Title 18, Chapter 65 Covers litter and waste that lands on public and private property or into the waters of this Commonwealth. This can include someone illegally disposing their own trash or someone who is paid to dispose of trash.</p>	<p>A summary offense for the first offense and upon conviction shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$300 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.</p>	<p>Local Police PA State Police PA Fish and Boat Commission PA Game Commission PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks and Bureau of Forestry (in state parks & forests only)</p>
<p>PA Environmental Protection Code, Title 25 These regulations are derived from the Solid Waste Management Act, Waste Tire Recycling Act, Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, and the Clean Streams Law (CSL). They regulate waste collection, storage, disposal, and transportation, as well as disposal and recycling facility operations. Regulations under the above-noted acts and this code make it unlawful for <u>anyone</u> to dispose of waste, within the commonwealth, at anywhere other than to a facility that has a DEP permit to operate. It also requires vehicles used to haul waste to be appropriately marked and meet other restrictions. The vehicle regulations do not apply to individuals hauling their own municipal waste to a permitted facility.</p>	<p>Depending on the violation:</p> <p>As a summary offense, penalty is between \$100 and \$10,000 per incident.</p> <p>As a misdemeanor of the third degree, penalty is between \$1,000 and \$25,000 per incident.</p> <p>As a civil penalty, fine can be as high as \$25,000 per offense.</p> <p>Vehicles can be seized if used to violate any regulation pertaining to the transportation of waste.</p>	<p>PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management DEP Bureau of Water Quality</p>
<p>PA Code, Title 17, Chapters 11 & 21 Conservation and Natural Resources, State Parks & State Forests Rules and Regulations Covers littering and dumping in state parks and forests.</p>	<p>A summary offense and, upon conviction, may be sentenced to either or both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To pay a fine of not more than \$300. Imprisonment not exceeding 90 days. 	<p>PA DCNR Bureau of State Parks and Bureau of Forestry PA Fish and Boat Commission PA Game Commission</p>
<p>PA Fish and Boat Code, Title 30, Chapter 25 Covers litter and illegal dumping in or along any waters or on any lands near waters.</p>	<p>A summary offense and can be fined between \$50 and \$200 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days. An additional penalty of \$10 for each item or piece of litter may be imposed.</p>	<p>PA Fish and Boat Commission PA Game Commission</p>
<p>PA Game and Wildlife Code, Title 34, Chapter 25 Covers litter and illegal dumping on lands or in/along waters open to public hunting or furtaking.</p>	<p>A summary offense of the third degree, resulting in a \$300 fine, which can be doubled for subsequent offenses. An additional fine of \$10 for each item of litter may be imposed.</p>	<p>PA Game Commission PA Fish and Boat Commission</p>
<p>Local Ordinances Cover improper disposal, transportation and storage of waste. Ordinances vary.</p>	<p>Varies by municipality.</p>	<p>Local Police Local Code Enforcement Offices Local Solid Waste Authorities County Health Departments</p>

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