

FACT SHEET

DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS

Kaufman County has experienced a sharp increase in population. With this growth results in added pressures on the environment.

For generations, many practices which were acceptable in the past, have now become illegal.

The dumping of trash at un-permitted locations, throwing away old car batteries, and dumping used motor oil behind the garage or along fence lines, are all crimes that carry a fine and even a jail sentence.

Although, these acts have always been harmful to our environment, we now have a better understanding of the extent and duration of these activities impacting our environment. The number of people engaging in these types of activities have made it necessary to aggressively investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.

LITTER and TRASH

The Crime

- Illegal Dumping

The Punishment

- Fine up to \$1,000,000
- Incarceration up to 20 Years
- *Or Both*

Illegally disposed litter, trash, rubbish, garbage, and hazardous waste, all are threats to public health.

People as well as animals can get injured by broken glass, exposed metals, and other dangerous materials. Rats, snakes, mosquitoes, and other pests can live in the garbage and transmit disease to humans and pets. Rotting food attracts flies, which may carry germs that make people sick. Harmful chemicals and other materials that are dumped can contaminate our water.

Dumping into waterways, like ditches, creeks, streams, and rivers can prevent the proper flow of water and cause flooding and pollution.

Illegal dumping costs money. Tax dollars spent for clean-up cannot be used for other needs. When someone dumps trash, others follow. Garbage builds up until it is cleaned at a cost passed along to citizens.

KAUFMAN COUNTY Environmental Enforcement

101 N. Houston Street
Kaufman, TX 75142
(469) 376-4127



**1-888-335-DUMP
HOTLINE**

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USED MOTOR OIL

The Crime

- Violation - Handling Used Motor Oil

The Punishment

- Fine from \$1000 to \$100,000
- Imprisonment up to 15 Years
- *Or Both*

One reason the punishment is so aggressive is that just one quart of used motor oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.

Most people agree that pouring used motor oil into the local water supply would be a destructive act. Yet, many people will still dump dirty motor oil in a sewer, drain, ditch, and on weeds. However, rain creates run off from virtually any place used motor oil might be dumped, and contaminated runoff is one of the greatest causes of water pollution today.

Kaufman County provides oil recycling collection stations for citizens to deposit their used motor oil and filters at numerous locations throughout the county. This service is free of charge.

Oil collection stations are located at:

- Precinct 1 Maintenance Barn (Kaufman)
- Precinct 2 Maintenance Barn (Forney)
- Precinct 3 Maintenance Barn (Terrell)
- Precinct 4 Maintenance Barn (Kemp)

LEAD-ACID BATTERIES

The Crime

- Unauthorized Disposal of Lead-Acid Battery

The Punishment

- Fine up to \$4000
- Imprisonment up to 1 Year
- *Or Both*

Lead is a strong poison. Too much lead in your body can damage your brain and nervous system, blood, kidneys, digestive system, and reproductive system.

A lead-acid battery is hazardous waste. Hazardous waste requires special handling and disposal.