

Prohibited Dumpster Items

Sometimes you need a rental dumpster in order to remove large amounts of trash. This can include anything from cleaning out after a natural disaster to trying to declutter a basement or attic. Renting a dumpster is often the easiest and most effective way to get rid of everything.

But it's important to note that not all trash can be disposed of in a dumpster. There are some items that are simply too corrosive or dangerous to be disposed of in a landfill. These include:

- **Hazardous Waste.** Hazardous waste is considered anything that poses an extreme danger to the environment, people, or both. These aren't safe to put a dumpster because landfills don't have the equipment necessary to properly dispose of them.
- **Corrosive Material.** This is anything that can corrode the structure of an item—including dumpsters. It can be potentially dangerous to handle.
- **Toxins.** Typically refers to toxic liquids, which can be absorbed through the skin or into the soil.
- **Flammables.** Flammable items can catch fire easily, which can be incredibly dangerous in a landfill, both for the workers and for the environment
- **There are also miscellaneous other items that may not be good to put into a dumpster for various reasons.**



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It can be easy to forget about these items when you're in the process of cleaning. Additionally, you may not even be entirely sure what these items are. If you are uncertain about what materials can be thrown away in a dumpster, you can start by looking for symbols:

- Hazardous Waste Symbol.
- Skull and Cross Bones (meaning the item is toxic).
- Fire symbol (meaning the item is flammable).
- 3, 2, 1 W Chemical Symbol

Additionally, you can contact a local waste disposal plant to ask about which items are safe to throw away traditionally and which should be disposed of securely.

There are a number of items that you're probably already aware that you shouldn't dispose of by normal means. These include:

- **Industrial Drums and Waste.** Anything that could be considered a byproduct of certain industrial processes is likely hazardous waste and should be taken care of by a professional.
- **Motor Oils.** These are usually dangerous to the environment and should be disposed of at a hazardous waste facility.
- **Ink.** Ink can be harmful to dumpsters and other containers. It's usually best to recycle the ink at a designated site.
- **Fuel.** Most fossil fuels are highly flammable and should be taken to a hazardous waste facility for correct disposal.
- **Refrigerants.** There are usually federal guidelines to getting rid of the refrigerants found in machinery, and you should discuss the process with your local waste disposal center or with your dumpster rental company.
- **Paint.** Paint—depending on the type—may have harmful chemicals like mercury or lead.
- **Batteries.** The chemicals in batteries are well-known to be toxic and should be disposed of properly.
- **Cleaning Materials.** Most cleaning products have a variety of chemicals to make them effective. However, they can become dangerous if they aren't thrown away in a certain manner.

Many of these people already know—or at least suspect—shouldn't be thrown away in a dumpster. But there are several items that you may want to throw in a dumpster that you wouldn't even consider to be problematic. Some of these include:

- **Food.** It's usually not a good idea to throw food away in a dumpster because it will attract rats and other vermin. These should be thrown away in your usual trash.
- **Tires.** Methane can build inside tires, which can cause them to expand and break garbage bags. It's generally best to recycle tires rather than throw them away.
- **Stumps.** Most heavy objects—stumps included—can be problematic when taken to a landfill. They don't usually break down quickly, meaning they'll be in the landfill far longer than they need to be. To get rid of items like this, you should take them to the required specialist. In this case, stumps can be ground up by a mulch chipper or removed by a landscaping company.
- **Adhesives.** Things like glue can cause materials inside the dumpster to stick together. These can make it difficult to get the items out of the dumpster or to pull them apart from each other. You can dispose of adhesives in your regular garbage but do so in small increments to avoid this problem.

There are also items that have certain chemicals in them which shouldn't be thrown away in your typical waste or in a dumpster. Asbestos, for example, is carcinogenic and should be removed by a professional.

While rental dumpsters can be helpful, it's important to keep in mind what you can throw in them and what you can't. If you ever have any questions about what you can get rid of in our dumpsters, then contact us today. We can give you information on the items we can dispose of, why you might not be able to use a rental dumpster for a certain item, and how you can properly get rid of those you can't throw away normally.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns:

1 (949) 292-8548