# Investigation

If you encounter a suspected unlawful/ uncontrolled dumping, you should contact Code Enforcement as soon as possible.

An inspector will be sent to investigate the violation.

- If it does appear to be an unlawful/ uncontrolled dump, the City may immediately abate the violation.

  We will look for evidence of who dumped the items and issue a ticket for up to $ 2,500 to that person.

- If it is unclear whether or not the violation is an unlawful/uncontrolled dump:

  - We will send a letter to the property owner giving him/her 10 days to remove the violation.
  - After 10 days an inspector will go out to reinspect the violation.
  - If the violation still exists, the City will clean the violation and bill the property owner.

## Contact Us!


227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46601
Phone: 574-233-0311 (or dial 311)
Email: CodeEnforcement@southbendin.gov
Website: https://southbendin.gov/department/code-enforcement


# NEAT Crew

The Neighborhood Enforcement Action Team (or "NEAT Crew" as we call them) is the division of Code Enforcement that helps to clean the City. NEAT Crew is a team of 3 crew members and 1 supervisor.

The NEAT Crew is tasked with:

- cleaning environmental violations that have been cited by Code Enforcement inspectors when the owners don't comply
- cleaning and removing illegal dumps
- clearing snow from the sidewalks of the major bridges in South Bend
- assisting with storm damage cleanup
- demolishing garages/sheds affirmed for demolition

## NEAT by Numbers (per year)

3 million → Avg. pounds of debris removed

7,000 → Avg. number of tires collected

2,600 → Avg. number of cleanups

8 → Avg. number of gargages or sheds demolished

# Unlawful / Uncontrolled Dumping

Code Enforcement
City of South Bend

# Dumping Traits

## Common Types of Dumping Include:

- Trash / Garbage
- Demolition Remains
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Tires

## Common Areas of Dumping Include:

- Alleyways
- Secluded Areas Accessible by Car
- Vacant Lots
- Abandoned Houses/Buildings
- Areas with Overgrown Vegetation
- Areas with Easy Access
- Dumpsters
- Unsecured Properties

## Special Pickup

To schedule a special pickup for large items, **dial 311.**

Don't set items out by the curb more than 24 hours before scheduled pickup.

# Prevention Tips

The most important thing a homeowner or property occupant can do to prevent dumping is to keep the property clean, maintained and in good repair.

**Lack of care "invites" dumping.**

It may help you to:

- Install motion lights in the back and sides of property (and any other shaded areas).
- Install cameras (fake or real).
- Install "No Littering", "No Dumping", or "Under Surveillance" signs.
- Keep property secured (including garage and fence).
- Maintain an open line-of-sight from house to alley.
- Form partnerships with your neighbors to watch each other's properties.
- Cut back any vegetation overgrowth that provides shadowing.
- Use, and encourage the use of, licensed contractors to remove trash.
  - Request a receipt for dumping fees before paying in full for trash removal services.

# Ordinances

## Applicable City Ordinance (abbreviated):

### Sec. 16-40 Uncontrolled dumping deemed nuisance; inspection upon complaint

(a) The uncontrolled dumping of dirt, garbage, yard waste, refuse or trash of any type, kind or nature on any private or public area or into any streams running through or adjacent to the City is declared a nuisance hazardous to the health and well-being of the residents of the City.

(b) Upon a complaint being filed with the City's Department of Code Enforcement, a Code Enforcement Officer shall inspect any land or stream where alleged uncontrolled dumping has taken place.

(c) If the complaint is verified by the Code Enforcement Officer and deemed to be a nuisance or a violation of this Code, the City shall proceed with prosecution of the alleged violation.

### Sec. 16-57 Abatement by the City

Upon the failure, neglect or refusal of any party to whom notice to abate a nuisance has been given under Section 16-55 or whenever a nuisance exists which creates a health or safety hazard requiring immediate abatement in order to protect public health or safety...designee may abate the nuisance, keeping accurate account of all costs, and bill them to the record owner or to the person shown to have the right of exclusive possession of the property.

**See www.municode.com/library/in/south_bend/codes/code_of_ordinances for full ordinances, additional ordinances, restrictions and information.**