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ODNR-Division of Recycling & Litter Prevention

Keep Ohio Beautiful
Your Anti-Litter Organization
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Littering and Illegal Dumping - ORC 3767.32

Leaving any trash or discarded items on any public or private land or waterway is a third-degree misdemeanor in Ohio. The law also prohibits putting trash in someone else's trash receptacle without permission from the owner or a civil authority, unless the receptacle is intended for public use or the trash was generated on the property where the receptacle is located.

Open Burning or Open Dumping - ORC 3734.03

Illegal dumping or burning of trash can also be prosecuted as an unclassified felony. Those convicted face fines between \$10,000 and \$25,000, two to four years incarceration, or both a fine and imprisonment.

Littering from a Motor Vehicle - ORC 4511.82

Littering from a motor vehicle is a minor misdemeanor-and can result in fines up to \$100. The driver of a motor vehicle can be cited if a passenger litters. The driver can also be cited if litter simply falls or blows from the vehicle.

Unsecured Load - ORC 4513.31

If you haul anything in a motor vehicle, you must make sure it stays securely attached to the vehicle during transit. Failure to do so is a minor misdemeanor for the first offense, a fourth-degree misdemeanor upon the second offense within a year, and third-degree misdemeanor for each additional offense.

Prohibiting Polluting State Land or Water - ORC 1531-29

The penalty for littering can be more severe when litter ends up on state owned, controlled, or administered land, or in any ditch, stream, river, lake, pond, or other watercourse which is part of a larger surface or groundwater system. Like the litter law, pollution violations are a third-degree misdemeanor, but subsequent offenses within a year are first-degree misdemeanors. The same penalties apply if the litter ends up on the banks of a body of water close enough to be pulled in during flooding.