

Dumpster Do's and Don'ts: A Guide to Proper Trash Disposal

Maintaining a clean and tidy community requires everyone to follow our trash disposal guidelines. Article VI of our Rules and Regulations provides important instructions on how to properly use the dumpsters. Let's clarify some common questions and ensure we're all on the same page.

The Basics of Dumpster Usage

Here are the key rules to remember when using our community dumpsters:

- **Proper Disposal:** All trash must be placed inside the dumpsters.
- **Bag It:** Always put your trash in plastic or paper bags before placing it in the dumpster. This helps prevent odors and keeps pests away.
- **Lids Closed:** Keep the dumpster lids closed at all times. This is essential to prevent animals from getting into the trash.
- **Break Down Boxes:** Flatten all cardboard boxes before placing them in the dumpster to save space.
- **No Overflowing:** If a dumpster is full, use the next nearest one. Never pile trash on top of or beside a full dumpster.
- **Designated Dumpsters:** Do not use the trash containers at the pool for your unit's trash.

What About Large Items Like Mattresses?

This is a common question, and it's important to be clear:

- **Large Items Require Care:** The rules state that owners/tenants are responsible for properly disposing of large or heavy bulk items such as mattresses, furniture, appliances, etc.
- **Dumpster Option:** You *can* place these items in the dumpster, *but* only if they fit entirely inside with the lid closed.
- **Mattresses Typically Don't Fit:** In most cases, a mattress will *not* fit completely inside the dumpster, and forcing it in or leaving it sticking out is a violation.
- **Alternative Disposal:** Therefore, you will likely need to explore alternative disposal methods for mattresses and other oversized items.

Acceptable Disposal Options for Large Items

Since simply tossing a mattress into the dumpster isn't usually an option, here are some ways to properly dispose of it:

- **Haul it Away:** You can transport the item yourself to a landfill or waste disposal center.
- **Schedule a Pickup:** Many waste management companies offer bulk item pickup services for a fee. Contact your local provider.

- **Donation:** If the item is in good condition, consider donating it to a charity or organization that accepts used goods.
- **Recycling:** Some facilities specialize in recycling mattresses and their components. Search for mattress recycling options in your area.

Important Reminder:

- **No Illegal Dumping:** Under no circumstances should you leave any items, especially large ones, on the ground beside the dumpsters. This is considered illegal dumping and can result in fines.

By following these guidelines, we can maintain a clean community and avoid problems with waste disposal. When in doubt about how to dispose of a specific item, err on the side of caution and explore alternative disposal methods.