

Dumping of garden waste

What is garden waste?

Garden waste is any material from your garden including lawn clippings, prunings, plants, twigs, branches, leaves, soil, dirt and mulch.

Why is dumping garden waste a problem?

You might think that there is nothing wrong with dumping garden waste into bushland because the material is natural, however dumping your garden waste still causes harm to the environment in a number of different ways.

Disposing of garden waste appropriately is a positive step towards reducing human impact on the environment.

Why you should not dump your garden waste?

- It could introduce invasive weeds from our gardens into the bushland.
- Dry garden waste is a fire hazard.
- Dumped garden waste can increase the amount of soil nutrients and encourage the growth of exotic plants and weeds, out-competing our native plants.
- Prevents natural regeneration of native plants.
- Affects our native animals who rely on native plants for food and shelter.
- Dumped garden waste often gets washed into our stormwater and ends up in our creeks, rivers and beaches.
- Dumped material creates a breeding ground for rats and mice and a habitat for snakes.
- Suffocates small native plants and groundcovers.
- Once in the water, leaves and grass clippings absorb oxygen and release nutrients. The reduced oxygen levels in the water can choke fish and the increased nutrient levels cause toxic algal blooms.
- Leaves and grass clippings can block drains and cause localised flooding.
- Soil and sand in waterways reduces the water flow and creates murky water, blocking sunlight needed for aquatic plant growth.



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What are the impacts of dumping garden waste?

- Destroys bushland areas and habitat for native animals.
- Brings disease, pests and weeds into areas of native bush.
- Can replace native plant species with invasive weeds.
- Destroys the beauty of bushland and decreases its appeal.
- Increases the risk of bushfires to bushland and nearby properties.
- Costs ratepayers and the government money to clean up and dispose of the dumped material appropriately.
- Attracts more illegal dumping.



What should you do with your garden waste?

- If you have a Council garden waste bin, place your garden waste in it to be collected and disposed appropriately.
- Use your garden waste to make your own mulch and compost. This can be used to mulch your garden, reducing the need for watering and weeding.
- Cover your compost heap to stop distribution of seeds by wind and animals.
- Bag all your garden waste and take it to your local waste disposal facility.
- Leave your grass clippings on your lawn where they will act as a natural fertiliser.
- DO NOT put soil, dirt, mulch and large branches in your garden waste, recycling or garbage bins.
- DO NOT dump garden waste over the back fence and into bushland.



If you see anyone dumping their garden waste please report the details to Council's Customer Call Centre on 1300 36 2170 or in writing at Locked Bag 7064 Liverpool BC NSW 1871. By reporting an incident you can help Council locate offenders and prevent illegal dumping and the degradation of our bushland and waterways. For more information, contact Liverpool City Council on 1300 36 2170.