



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of
Streets and Sanitation

Michael J. Picardi
Commissioner

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<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

Dear Business Owner,

Littering is a serious problem in Chicago. The city spends millions of dollars each year to clean-up litter. Litter can cause neighborhoods to look rundown, contributing to declining property values. It also provides a breeding ground for disease-carrying rats and insects. Part of the mission of the Department of Streets and Sanitation is to provide Chicagoans with an ever increasing quality of life by maintaining the highest possible cleanliness standards in the City. In support of this, we are implementing an aggressive **anti-littering** program to promote the safe disposal of all trash and debris.

The following is a summary of our general sanitation laws (along with the accompanying section of the Municipal Code), which you as a business owner are responsible for complying with:

- Sidewalks and exterior areas must be kept clean, free of weeds and all **litter**. Outside areas adjacent to the premises must be kept clean, neat and monitored daily. (4-4-310)
- Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks in front of and adjacent to all buildings housing places of business. (4-4-310)
- Arrange for refuse to be removed by a licensed scavenger service. (7-28-310)
- Have sufficient containers to hold all garbage. All commercial dumpsters must have information prominently displayed on the exterior identifying the user of the dumpster and the scavenger company servicing it. (4-260-080)
- Check the dumpster area often. Dumpsters must be in good condition properly sealed and not leaking. Garbage must be contained with lids closed and locked. (7-28-210)
- Use and maintain a clean grease box. Grease must be properly contained with the walls and ground around the container clean at all times. (7-28-302)
- Burrows and openings must be sealed, and dock areas must be well baited to promote rodent control. (7-28-660)

We are asking our residents and businesses for their cooperation in following these guidelines in order to help us maintain our beautiful City. Attached you will find a summary of our Sanitation Code. The entire code is available at the Department of Streets and Sanitation's web site at www.cityofchicago.org/streetsandsanitation. Click on "Sanitation & Garbage" located under Services and Programs. For assistance or further information, please contact our Neighborhood Services Division at (312) 745-3261.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Picardi
Commissioner



**DEPARTMENT OF STREETS AND SANITATION
SUMMARY OF SANITATION CODE SECTIONS**

Municipal Code Section	Fine for Violation	Description of Violation
4-4-310	\$250-\$500	Business abutting public way littering or permitting accumulation of litter; must remove ice and snow from front sidewalk.
4-260-080	\$200-\$500	Scavenger emblems required for each vehicle; name, address, and phone number of scavenger service must be affixed to each container. Scavenger must remove refuse container within 30 days of suspension of service; within 3 days of termination of service.
7-28-210	\$500-\$1,000* \$1,000-\$2,000** \$2,000-\$5,000***	A leak resistant, rodent-resistant, lidded commercial refuse container must be provided. It should be constructed of impervious material and is subject to inspection. *First Offense **Second Offense ***Subsequent Offenses
7-28-302	\$250-\$500	a) Grease container users must keep cover in place, remove spilled grease after every use, and have a contract with a licensed scavenger for grease removal. b) Grease haulers must provide tightly fitting cover and remove grease spilled during collection.
7-28-310	\$200-\$500* \$400-\$750**	All businesses, except licensed Bed and Breakfasts, must have sufficient private scavenger service. *First Offense **Second Offense
7-28-660	\$100-\$500	Every building, structure, or parcel on which a building has been demolished or is being constructed shall be rat-stopped, freed of rats and maintained in a rat-stopped and rat-free condition. Rat-stopped means that all exterior openings that may be reached by rats must be closed.
4-260-090	\$200-\$500	Scavenger must carry equipment to remove spilled refuse, and remove scattered refuse within 6 ft. of container area.
7-28-060	\$200-\$500	Conditions detrimental to health. Anything in the City which is, or maintains, a nuisance or anything dangerous to life or detrimental to health; includes stagnant water.
7-28-120	\$100-\$300	Weeds with average height over 10 inches. Owner (or one who controls property) must cut/control weeds.
7-28-227	\$200-\$500	Construction/demolition sites must: a) Provide and maintain commercial refuse containers for litter. b) Deposit all litter in refuse container. c) Cover refuse container with tightly-fitting lid. d) Cause sufficient removal of refuse by private scavenger. e) Place container so it does not cause a nuisance to adjacent property. This ordinance <i>does not apply to construction and demolition debris</i> (gravel, dirt, etc), but only garbage and litter generated by workers (e.g. lunches).
7-28-230	\$100-\$500	Location of refuse container; all containers should be placed: a) For alley collections, at the alley lot line on the premises serviced. It is the property owner's responsibility to provide suitable space at the alley line. b) For curb collections, at the curb line no earlier than the evening of collection. No container (private or city) shall be placed so as to constitute a nuisance to adjacent property.
7-28-240	\$100-\$500	Multiple unit building (more than four units) must provide private scavenger service (picked up at least once a week) This exempts buildings where the units are individually heated and the building was already receiving City service as of June 28, 2000.
7-28-260	\$200-\$500	Open lids; Use of container a) Owner, agent, or occupant must place all refuse in container or compactor, with tightly fitting cover in place; container must be maintained so spilled refuse is cleaned in a timely manner; Can't use someone else's container. b) User/Installer of sanitary container must keep tightly fitting cover in place.
7-28-261	\$200-\$500	Overflowing container: a) Overloading container, preventing closure; depositing refuse on top of or stacked against container. This paragraph only applies to the person who actually overloads the container. b) Owner or agent allowing accumulation of refuse/overflowing container. This applies to owner, agent, and occupant.
7-28-270	\$100-\$500	"Contents of container;" Placing anything other than "refuse" (as defined in 7-28-200) in any container.
7-28-280	\$100-\$500	Removing, uncovering, displacing content of refuse container.
7-28-300	\$100-\$500	Restaurant garbage must be placed in container and removed on each day of operation.
7-28-301	\$100-\$500	Grease containers must be leak-proof, and subject to inspection by Department of Streets and Sanitation.
7-28-305	\$100-\$500	Grease container can be placed on public way only if Streets and Sanitation determines that there is no other suitable location for it.

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7-28-315	\$200-\$500	Business with adjacent parking lot for customers must: a) Remove all litter from parking area, emptying litter baskets into commercial refuse containers daily. b) Must provide and maintain sufficient number of litter baskets.
7-28-331	\$200-\$500	a) Scavengers must indelibly label containers with the address of the location serviced and the name of the business or person responsible for paying the scavenger bill. Does not apply to grease containers. Container must be placed so that label is visible from the alley. b) Illegal to alter or obscure label.
7-28-360	\$100-\$500	Must remove all garbage and waste before vacating premises.
7-28-390	\$600-\$2,000	Dumping on Public Way (from a vehicle)
7-28-395	\$200-\$500	Construction Debris on Public Way; Any person who constructs, demolishes, remodels, excavates, or performs any maintenance operation on private property shall not allow any debris (dirt, rocks, sand, etc.) to accumulate on public way, clearing debris at least once per day. Does not specify method of removal (mechanical, manual, etc.)
7-28-410	\$600-\$2,000	Dropping Refuse from Vehicle (leaking, spilling from vehicle)
7-28-440	\$1,500-\$2,500	Dumping on Real Estate without permit ("Fly Dump")
7-28-450	\$200-\$1,000	a) Owner, occupant, agent, or person in possession or control of vacant lot shall remove all garbage, debris, refuse, litter, and miscellaneous waste (including abandoned autos). b) Owner, agent, occupant, etc. of any residence or business must remove all garbage, debris, refuse, litter, and miscellaneous waste. c) Owner, agent of railroad track shall maintain the area immediately beneath the overpass, bridge, viaduct, etc.; keep it clear of rail, ties, ballast, misc. debris, etc. fallen from track. This section allows the City to clean private property and recover the costs at hearing.
7-28-710	\$100-\$500	Accumulation of garbage or trash (food or shelter for rats). Dumping or allowing the accumulation of garbage or trash so it affords food or harborage for rats on any premises, land, or waterway.
7-28-720	\$100-\$500	Accumulation of materials or junk (shelter for rats); includes lumber, boxes, bricks, stones, auto bodies or parts, etc., unless evenly stacked on open racks 18 inches above the ground.
7-28-730	\$100-\$500	Failure to rat-stop property (following Notice to Abate only).
7-28-740	\$100-\$500	Open lots must be kept free of trash, refuse, miscellaneous waste, etc.
7-28-750	\$100-\$500	Open lot must be fenced in; fence maintained in good repair. Non-combustible screen fence; defined in 13-96-130.
10-8-180	up to \$50	Must remove ice and snow from sidewalk in front of property.
10-8-310	\$25-\$200	Placing advertising matter in/on auto (includes handing to occupants of vehicles)
10-8-320	\$25-\$75/pole* \$100-\$300/pole**	Posting bills on any public property (including telephone poles) *First Offense **Second Offense (Fines are per pole/structure) It is presumed that any person or business whose goods, services, activities, or events are promoted by a sign, posted it or caused it to be posted.
10-8-340	\$100/pole per day	Hanging banners on a city light pole without a permit.
10-8-480	\$50-\$200	Casting refuse and liquids (littering) public way, sewer, drain. Litter includes boxes, wrappers, garbage, clothes, rubbish, refuse.
10-28-030	\$25-\$100	Placing ice or snow on public way.
10-28-064	\$200-\$500	Advertising sign on public way – Placing or maintaining a sign advertising or directing people to a business, regardless of where business is conducted.
10-28-070	\$5-\$10	Storage of goods on public way (personal property, merchandise, etc.)
10-32-050	\$10-\$500	Owner of property adjacent to parkway is responsible for routine maintenance, including watering, weeding, and mowing.
10-32-060	\$10-\$500	Remove, trim, damage, or plant parkway tree without permit.
10-32-110	\$10-\$500	Attaching material to tree (without permit).
10-32-140	\$10-\$500	Placing substances on parkway without permit (asphalt, cement, stone, lumber, etc.)
13-32-235	\$100-\$500* \$1,000**	Permits for building demolition must certify that rodent abatement measures were conducted within 14 days of application. Making false statement, submitting false information, or omitting information on application is a violation. *First Offense **Second Offense