



DUMPSTER AND OUTSIDE REFUSE STORAGE DETAILS FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

These details provide information concerning dumpsters, dumpster pads, refuse containers, and outside refuse storage areas. The details are based on the Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER). Additional details such as designated location and enclosures may be required from the local building official or the garbage collection service where the food establishment is located.

I. Requirements for New Establishments

- A. New establishments must submit details for the dumpster and storage areas in the proposed building plans and permit application including specific disposal methods for liquid wastes and wash water. **See sections II A.3, IV, and V below.** The method to dispose of any liquids must meet the requirements of TFER and any local city requirements and wastewater utility requirements. Discharges to the parking lot, street, gutter, or storm drain are not allowed.
- B. Owners are referred to the building official in the city where they plan to build for local requirements concerning storage areas, enclosures, locations and related details.
- C. All new establishments are required to meet these standards regardless of whether the establishment is in an existing building or is new construction.

II. Outdoor Areas

- A. Storage Surfaces
 - 1. Constructed of proper materials (concrete, thick asphalt, etc.)
 - 2. Surfaces are smooth, durable, and non-absorbent.
 - 3. Dumpster pad or storage area is curbed and sloped to drain. The purpose is to prevent standing water, prevent surface drainage flowing into the storage area, **and** to collect and dispose of liquid wastes from the refuse or from cleaning the storage area or containers.
- B. Enclosures, if used.
 - 1. Constructed of durable and cleanable materials.
 - 2. Kept in good repair and free of litter and unnecessary items
 - 3. Contact the local building official and the garbage collection service for additional details.
- C. Location of Refuse Storage and Receptacles
 - 1. Located where it will not create a public health nuisance.
 - 2. Located not to interfere with cleaning of adjacent spaces.
 - 3. Contact the garbage collection service for any additional details concerning location.

III. Refuse and Storage Receptacles

- A. Types
 - 1. Dumpster, trash cans, trash carts, On-Site Compactor, waste containers, grease barrels, recycling containers.

B. Requirements

1. Constructed, designed, and maintained with tight-fitting lids, doors, or covers.
2. Structurally sound, durable, in good repair with no leakage. If constructed with a drain hole, the drain plug is properly in place.
3. Insect and rodent resistant.
4. Cleanable. Installed to allow effective cleaning under and around units.

IV. Liquids and Wastewater Disposal

Liquid wastes, wash water, and wastewater are considered the same as sewage. As required by law, liquid wastes, wastewater, wash water, and sewage must be collected and disposed of properly with no surface discharges or other improper disposal. Disposal must be to the approved sanitary sewage system, onsite sewage facility or conveyed to an approved disposal facility. Discharges to the parking lot, street, gutter, or storm drain are not allowed.

V. General Cleaning and Sanitation of Receptacles

Method and Frequency of Cleaning

1. Receptacles and waste handling units cleaned in a way that does not contaminate other surfaces, equipment, or supplies. Wash water and wastewater is disposed of properly. See section IV.
2. Suitable cleaning implements and supplies provided for effective cleaning of receptacles and waste handling units.
3. Soiled receptacles and waste-handling units cleaned at a frequency to prevent the buildup of soils, objectionable odors, or attracting insects and rodents.

VI. Refuse Removal

Refuse and other waste materials are removed at a frequency that minimizes overflowing containers, objectionable odors, and conditions that attract or harbor insects or rodents.

VII. Outside Storage Prohibitions

- A. Refuse receptacles that are not rodent resistant such as unprotected plastic and paper bags, or baled units that contain materials with food residue may not be stored outside.
- B. Cardboard or other packaging material that does not contain food residues and that is awaiting regularly scheduled pickup may be stored outside without being in a covered receptacle if it is stored so that it does not create a rodent harborage problem.

VIII. Good Management Practices

Good management practices include but are not limited to: repair or replace leaking dumpsters, keep drain plugs in place, keep dumpster lids closed to keep trash in and rainwater out, place wet garbage in bags before disposal into dumpsters, minimize liquids placed in trash cans, double bag garbage, utilize dry cleaning methods, daily inspection of the storage area, clean up spills immediately, encourage procedures and practices that minimize liquids in the garbage.