



## *Driving*

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Environmental  
Issues,  
Responsibilities  
and Laws  
You Need  
to Know

*Driving gives you freedom and  
responsibilities.*

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Litter is man-made or man-used waste that escapes from the waste handling system. Roadside litter and illegal dumping have negative effects on health, safety and economic prosperity. Florida Litter Law and

the Jacksonville Litter Law both prohibit littering and illegal dumping. Florida law requires that vehicle owners secure loads on vehicles. It is important that you familiarize yourself with the penalties and fines associated with these crimes. Internet Sites for additional information on Florida Statutes and City Ordinances visit [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us) and [www.coj.net/pub/ordin.htm](http://www.coj.net/pub/ordin.htm).

- Drivers should have a container in the vehicle to temporarily hold used items and wait for an opportunity to place it in a proper trash can. This practice enables you to avoid the \$100 city and \$50 state minimum fines for littering.
- Signs require a permit issued by city government. Do not participate in projects that require you to place illegal signs or distribute flyers in parking lots or other public places. These actions result in litter and you would be responsible.
- Florida Statutes require that no vehicle shall be driven or moved unless it is constructed or loaded to prevent any of its load from dropping, shifting, leaking, blowing or otherwise escaping. Take the time to securely cover, strap, tie and prepare items for safe transport.
- Careless transport of materials or dumping violates laws and can damage your driving record and require the payment of fines. Penalties may include jail sentences and loss of vehicle.



Fines and jail terms are determined by the amount of debris dumped. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a \$5,000 fine and/or up to 5 years in jail. A motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, container, crane, winch, or machine used to dump in excess of 500 pounds or 100 cubic feet is declared contraband and is subject to forfeiture.

*If you use a vehicle to haul cargo consider the following:*



Unsecured cargo is a violation of the law and may become a life-threatening road hazard that even cautious, skilled drivers maintaining safe distances find difficult to defend against.

Personal injury, death and vehicle damage result from the forces associated with moving vehicles and air that can cause items to shift or lift and collide with another vehicle or crash to the road. Expect the unexpected. Potentially hazardous items can be out of sight, down inside the cargo area. The forces of motion and airlift will still affect cargo that can be unseen from the road. Even small lightweight items contribute to the problems of litter and road debris.

Some tips to help you drive defensively:

- Be alert for vehicles that are carrying unsecured cargo. Accidents resulting in death and tragic injuries are caused by careless hauling practices.
- Keep a distance of at least one car length for each 10 miles per hour of speed between yourself and load-carrying vehicles in the event you need to swerve around objects. Consider whether to slow down, pull over or change lanes if you find yourself behind a load-carrying vehicle that looks unsafe. The distance before a

vehicle stops moving is impacted by tire tread wear, weather and the condition of brakes and pavement.

Unsecured people and animals are at great risk. It is extremely dangerous to ride in the cargo area, inside or outside of a vehicle. In a collision, people riding in these areas are more likely to be seriously injured or killed.

- Do not allow people to ride in any area of your vehicle that is not equipped with seats and safety belts. Be sure passengers use seat belts properly.



Illegal dumping has serious consequences. Do not leave unwanted items in any inappropriate place such as the dumpster containers on public or private property, outside the gate of a closed facility

or remote wooded sites and waterways. Follow the guidelines in this pamphlet or call **630-CITY** to inquire about correct disposal practices. Don't accept a job or task that could result in accusations of illegal dumping. A motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, container, crane, winch, or machine used to dump in excess of 500 pounds or 100 cubic feet is declared contraband and is subject to forfeiture. Take note of the following cargo weights, dimensions and penalties:

- Any quantity for commercial purpose or hazardous waste can result in a third degree felony conviction and fine of not more than \$10,000 or 6 months in jail, or both for each offense.
- 27 cubic feet (one cubic yard) can fit in the bed of a pickup
- 100 CU. FT. represents a small dump truck load.
- Roofing is very heavy. 25 shingles weigh over 60 pounds; one square of roofing is over 200 pounds. A small pickup truck could easily carry over 500 pounds of roofing material.

\_\_\_\_Florida Statute 403.413 (Florida Litter Law) prohibits littering and illegal dumping. Fines and jail terms are determined by the amount of debris dumped. The maximum penalty for violating this provision is a \$5,000 fine and/or up to 5 years in jail.

\_\_\_\_City of Jacksonville Ordinance 380.210 (Jacksonville Litter Law) prohibits littering and illegal dumping. Upon conviction of this provision a person may be required to pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars or more than two thousand dollars and perform community service.

\_\_\_\_Florida Statute 316.520(2) (Loads on Vehicles) It is the duty of every owner and driver to prevent materials from falling, blowing, or in any way escaping from the vehicle. Covering and securing loads is required.



*Maintaining a vehicle has special considerations*

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Use extreme caution if an emergency causes you to pull off the paved road. Heat from the vehicle's catalytic converter can cause fires by igniting high dry grasses and

vegetation. Consider fire hazard potential along with other roadside safety issues.

Plan for the disposal of automobile materials to obey the laws, prevent pollution and reduce waste. Illegal dumping of special waste items such as tires, used motor oil, batteries and auto parts is a crime resulting in fines and penalties.

Air conditioning coolant is damaging to the environment. A



repair shop with the equipment to recycle the coolant should do air conditioning repairs.

Batteries contain lead and corrosive acid. They are potentially hazardous to health and the environment.

- Do not leave batteries outside or place in the garbage.
- Trade in your old battery when you buy a new one so the dealer will properly recycle it.
- Or, look in the telephone book yellow pages under the general heading BATTERIES and call a retailer to inquire about their policy for buying used batteries.
- The City of Jacksonville Hazardous Waste Facility, **387-8847** will accept, but not pay for, automobile and boat batteries. Because curbside pick-up of hazardous waste is prohibited, you would need to deliver to their facility. Call to inquire about receiving times.

Motor oil and automotive fluids are hazardous materials and must be disposed of properly in accordance with federal, state and local requirements. One gallon of oil can contaminate up to a million gallons of water and increase environmental toxins. Crankcase oil draining has been reported to account for 40% of the total pollution of our waterways. One pint of oil can produce a slick up to one acre in size. For additional environmental information visit [www.1800cleanup.org](http://www.1800cleanup.org), [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us), [www.floridacenter.org](http://www.floridacenter.org).

DO NOT pour anything into ponds, inlets or storm drains in the street. They are intended for storm water only and flow directly into our natural waterways. It is a common misconception that the run-off and debris washed down storm drains is removed at a treatment plant. Locally and throughout the world, citizens must take action to prevent land-based sources of debris and toxins from entering streams, rivers and bays. Follow the guidelines below for correct disposal practices:



- If you change your own oil it is important to dispose of waste oil in special oil recycling locations. Return used oil during business hours to a recommended automotive service center or retailer. If you are unable to locate an oil recycle center in your area of Florida, call **1-800-741-4337**. The automated system will need your zip code or that of a commercial area nearby in

order to assist you.

- Do not allow automotive fluids from engines, radiators, transmissions, brake lines, fuel tanks or air conditioning units to run onto the ground. Radiator coolant, motor oil, other automotive fluids, paint and batteries are toxic and should be prevented from entering the environment. The Household Hazardous Waste Facility is located at **2675 Commonwealth Ave**. Since they are not always open to the public on a daily basis, call for days and hours of operation at **387-8847**. They are available to Duval County residents with small quantities. Businesses in Florida may contact Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistance Program at **1-800-741-4337** or **448-4300**.

- Do not mix automotive fluids because they have different disposal requirements. They need to be captured in drip pans and placed in sturdy non-breakable containers that are labeled, securely closed and kept away from children.

- Avoid the temptation to top off your gas tank when refueling cars or boats because doing so often results in small spills creating health and safety hazards.

Tires and auto parts have special disposal regulations. Water accumulating in tires and debris provides breeding places for

disease-carrying mosquitoes. If you change tires or buy new ones you must consider the requirements associated with transportation and disposal of waste tires in Duval County.

- Up to 4 tires off the rim are collected at residential curbside. Place them at the curb on garbage collection day or pre-arrange pickup by calling **387-8999** or **630-CITY** for schedules for your area.



- Tire rims and other car parts do not qualify for curbside collection. Call a private scrap dealer or auto salvage yard for disposal.

### *Waste Tire Hauling Information*

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There will be an increase in enforcement of the dumping of tires and other items countywide. Remember that 4 tires, with rims removed, will be picked up from an occupied residential address for your personal disposal. However, businesses have special requirements associated with tires. The average weight of a car tire is 20 pounds and a truck tire is 100 pounds.

There are statutes and penalties associated with tire hauling and disposal. You are violating the law if you:

- Contract or arrange with another person to transport waste tires for storage, or disposal, or resale who does not meet the legal requirements.
- Deliver waste tires to any place other than the place of business of a licensed tire dealer, licensed and permitted transporter or ultimate disposal site.
- Give or display false identification or sign a false name when required to furnish identification.



- Fail to submit required records or knowingly submitting records with false information.

Vehicles used for commercial or business purposes hauling more than 25 waste tires must comply with regulations:

- A current waste tire decal, with the waste tire registration number issued to that vehicle by the D.E.P, must be affixed to the outside of the driver's door. The decal expires each year on April 1st.
- An occupational License is required.
- The vehicle must be marked in clearly legible letters, not less than two inches in height, with the name of the person or company.
- Hauling waste tires in Duval County requires a special license with both the city and the state.



*Driving enables you to have increased mobility and allows you access to many beautiful new places*

Thousands of acres of land are destroyed annually as a result of careless smoking. Don't allow cigarette butts to be thrown out of the car window. Studies show that cigarette filters are harmful to wildlife and the environment. They can be washed or blown down storm drains and go directly into our local waterways. They are made of

materials that take many years to decompose.

If you plan a drive to Jacksonville's beautiful beaches and parks, don't contribute to the dirty dozen - the twelve most abundant marine debris items found on the world's beaches during a recent International Coastal Cleanup were:

1. Cigarette butts
  2. Foamed plastic pieces
  3. Plastic pieces
  4. Plastic bags/wrappers
  5. Paper pieces
  6. Glass pieces
- [www.cmc-ocean.org](http://www.cmc-ocean.org)

7. Plastic caps/lids
8. Metal beverage cans
9. Glass beverage bottles
10. Plastic straws
11. Foamed plastic cups
12. Plastic beverage bottles

Save your money and the environment with these techniques:

- Idling - 30 seconds wastes more gas than turning the engine off and starting again. You can reduce pollution and spending by avoiding the drive-up lanes in banks, restaurants and other businesses.
- High speeds waste gas - Studies indicate gas mileage improves about 15% by driving 55 mph rather than 65 mph.
- Car pool and use overdrive gear - 5-speed manual transmissions and 4-speed automatic transmissions enable you to obtain higher fuel efficiency after the speed accelerates; refer to your owner's manual for additional information.
- Tire inflation - Adhere to owner's manual recommendations on proper tire inflation to increase fuel economy.



## *Boating*

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Do you enjoy boating on our beautiful waterways and have you made a commitment to keeping them clean and safe?

Avoid bringing disposable plastic products on board, especially plastic bags and six-pack rings. They can tangle boat props, clog intakes and cause harm to birds, fish and the entire marine food chain. The leading cause of bird entanglement is discarded fishing

**Clean It Up, Green It Up**  
[www.coj.net/neighbor/clean.htm](http://www.coj.net/neighbor/clean.htm)  
.....630-3420

**Keep Florida Beautiful**  
[www.keepflbeautiful.org](http://www.keepflbeautiful.org)  
.....1-800-828-9338

**Department of  
Environmental Protection**  
[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)  
.....448-4300

**Hazardous Waste  
Compliance Assistance  
Program**  
.....1-800-741-4337  
.....448-4300

**Environmental Protection  
Board**  
[www.coj.net/pub/resd/  
envprobd/epbhome.htm](http://www.coj.net/pub/resd/envprobd/epbhome.htm)  
.....630-3692

**Jacksonville Household  
Hazardous Waste Facility**  
.....387-8847

**Florida Bureau of Solid and  
Hazardous Waste**  
[www.floridacenter.org](http://www.floridacenter.org)

**Oil Recycling Locator**  
.....1-800-741-4337

**Florida Statutes/City  
Ordinances**  
[www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us)  
[www.coj.net/pub/ordin.htm](http://www.coj.net/pub/ordin.htm)

**Tire Collection**  
.....387-8999  
.....630-CITY

**Illegal Dumping Special  
Investigating**  
.....665-8205

**Other Environmental  
Information**  
[www.1800cleanup.org](http://www.1800cleanup.org)  
[www.dep.st.fl.us](http://www.dep.st.fl.us)





Environmental Protection Board  
[www.coj.net/pub/resd/envprobd/epbhome.htm](http://www.coj.net/pub/resd/envprobd/epbhome.htm)  
(904) 630-3692



Clean It Up, Green It Up  
[www.coj.net/neighbor/clean.htm](http://www.coj.net/neighbor/clean.htm)  
(904) 630-3420



City of Jacksonville  
[www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)  
(904) 630-CITY



Department of  
Environmental Protection  
[www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us)  
(904) 448-4300

This material is not intended to replace the Department of Motor Vehicles, Florida Driver's Handbook. It is produced by the City of Jacksonville, Clean It Up Green It Up Division 630-3420 and The Environmental Protection Board 630-3692.

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*For information on obtaining additional copies, contact the City of Jacksonville's Clean It Up, Green It Up Division at 630-3420.*

