

Montana Junk Vehicle Law

In 1973, the Montana Legislature enacted the Montana Motor Vehicle Recycling and Disposal Act (Title 75, Chapter 10, Part 5 of the Montana Code Annotated).

The law requires commercial and county motor vehicle storage and wrecking yards to get an annual license, keep pertinent records, and shield their junk vehicles from public view.

This law also requires individuals to control and shield all junk vehicles in their yard, alley, driveway, street, etc.

Important Definitions

Junk vehicle: A motor vehicle, including component parts, that:

- is discarded, ruined, wrecked, or dismantled;
- is not lawfully and validly licensed (with some exceptions); and
- remains inoperative or incapable of being driven.

A vehicle must meet *all three of these criteria* to be considered a junk vehicle.

Public view: Any point 6 feet above the surface of the center of a public road from which a junk vehicle can be seen.

Public road: Any publicly owned or maintained highway, street, or road or alley or privately owned road open for public access.

Shielding: The construction or use of fencing or constructed or natural barriers to conceal junk vehicles from public view.

More Information

Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality
deq.mt.gov/Land/JunkVehicles

Lewis and Clark Public Health
406-447-8351
www.lccountymt.gov/health/environmental-services/junk-vehicle.html



Environmental Health Division
316 N. Park Ave., Room 230
Helena MT 59623
406-447-8351
publichealth@lccountymt.gov
www.LewisAndClarkHealth.org

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Junk Vehicle



Removal Program

Got an old junker cluttering up your yard or alley? State law requires you to shield it from public view. Better yet, give us a call and we'll come haul it away — for free!



How to Get Your Junk Vehicle Hauled Away for Free!

Step 1

Complete the blue form in this packet entitled “Release of Ownership or Interest in Motor Vehicle.” You can also download the form at www.lccountymt.gov/health/environmental-services/junk-vehicle.html

If the junk vehicle you want removed is locked away or hidden from view — and/or if you want a phone call before a wrecker comes to remove the vehicle — please note this at the bottom of page 2 of the blue release form.

Step 2

If you have the title or registration for the junk vehicle, attach it securely to the blue release form.



Step 3

Make sure that the pre-assigned number on the top of your blue release form matches the number on the yellow sticker included in this packet. The two numbers should be the same.

Step 4

Attach the yellow sticker to the front window or another readily visible part of the junk vehicle.

Step 5

Mail the blue release form to:

Junk Vehicle Removal Program
Lewis and Clark County
316 N. Park Ave.
Helena MT 59623



Abandoned Vehicles

If you spot a vehicle that has been abandoned on a public street, report it to the city police, county sheriff, or whatever law enforcement agency has jurisdiction over the vehicle’s location.

Lewis and Clark Public Health cannot haul abandoned vehicles away until a law enforcement agency officially determines that the vehicle has been abandoned.

An abandoned vehicle is defined in state law (61-12-401 MCA) as any motor vehicle that has been left unattended for a period of 48 hours or more on a public highway or for a period of 5 days or more on a city street, public property, or private property.