



Missouri Control of Junkyards

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is responsible for regulating the establishment, operation and maintenance of junkyards along the interstate and primary highway system. The Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 requires MoDOT to regulate junkyards under 23 CFR Section 751. Failure to effectively regulate junkyards could cause the State of Missouri to lose up to seven (7) percent of its annual share of Federal Highway construction money as provided in 23 USC 121(b) and Missouri's federal-state agreement.

Missouri's rules and regulations regarding the control of junkyards are located in [RSMo 226.650 to 226.720](#) and [7 CSR 10-5](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I do not operate a junkyard business so why is MoDOT saying I have a junkyard?

A. *Junkyard means an establishment, area or place of business maintained, operated or used for the storing, keeping, buying or selling of junk or for the operation of an automobile graveyard, garbage dump or sanitary fill.*

If your location meets the definition of a junkyard, whether you do business as one or not; you are required to clean up the location or screen it from view of the highway and obtain a license from MoDOT.



Q. Under what conditions would the junkyard not have to be screened?

A. *If the property is in a zoned industrial area no screening is required but a license must be maintained.*

If the junked items are fully screened by natural objects such a rock bluff or trees, no additional screening is required but a license must be maintained.

If the junked items are located 1000' or more from the right of way line, screening is not required nor is a license required.





Q. What can I use to screen my junkyard?

A. You can use materials such as metal, wood panels or masonry blocks; earth berm or natural plantings such as shrubs, bushes or trees that do not lose their leaves. The junkyard must adequately be screened year round from view of the travelway.

Q. How long is the license good for and what is the cost?

A. A junkyard license is good for a year and the cost is \$10.00. The license expires on December 31st each year. The location must continue to meet screening requirements in order to maintain a license for the following year.



For more information on junkyard compliance and licensing please contact the [area specialist](#) for your county.

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Q. What happens if I do not screen the junkyard or apply for a license?

A. The law states that any person establishing, operating, or maintaining an unlicensed junkyard in violation of [RSMo 226.650 to 226.720](#) is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00 per day. Any person violating these provisions shall have sixty (60) days to correct the violation after proper notification. Each day a junkyard is in violation constitutes a separate offense.



Definitions (Section 226.660 RSMo)

Automobile graveyard – any establishment, area, or place of business maintained, used or operated for storing, keeping, buying, or selling wrecked, scrapped, ruined, or dismantled motor vehicles or parts thereof.

Junk – old or scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, trash, rubber debris, waste, or junked, dismantled, or wrecked automobiles, or parts thereof, iron, steel, and other old scrap ferrous or nonferrous metal.

Junkyard – an establishment, area, or place, of business maintained, operated or used for storing, keeping, buying, or selling of junk or for the operation of an automobile graveyard, garbage dump or sanitary fill.