

SCAVENGING MEMORANDUM

The students are moving out, but remember: Do not remove items from University dumpsters and donation stations.

The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling has spent quite a bit of time talking about under what circumstances it is necessary and/or safe to get in a dumpster or rolloff. Our purpose for doing so is to retrieve lost items or to remove contamination and recyclables. Doing so helps the University avoid fines, ensures proper disposal, maximizes recycling and minimizes disposal.

There has been a bit of discussion and several instances lately associated with the removal of items from dumpsters, rolloffs, and donation stations — especially as it relates to University employees. Therefore, let me summarize the concerns:

1. **Misuse of university resources or use of university resources for personal gain** — Once an item is in the dumpster it is considered state property and removal of the item for personal use can be considered theft. Also, using work time or resources for personal gain is not permitted and can be grounds for dismissal.
2. **Safety** — Getting in containers, opening trash bags, etc. can expose one to many different hazards. Do not risk it!
3. **Cleanliness of area** — Ripping open bags to see what is inside creates a huge mess! This creates more work and is extremely frustrating for those who have to clean up the area.

In short: You wouldn't do your personal shopping during work time with a work truck -- so don't "shop" in the dumpsters or donation stations either.

And as for others who are "shopping" on their own time, in their own vehicles: If someone is making a mess, rummaging through students' discards, or doing something that could prove harmful to themselves or others, we handle it this way:

1. We ask them to stop what they are doing.
2. We ask them to clean up any mess they made. (They rarely comply — but it is fun to ask.)
3. And we ask them to leave the area. In some cases, we have asked for assistance from campus police to stop particularly destructive or recurring scavenging — especially in the late night or early morning hours.

The only groups that are permitted to remove items from dumpster sites and donation stations are Housing Support, OWRR, and TROSA. TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers) is UNC's move-out donation partner. All usable items donated by students will be used or sold by this non-profit. TROSA members will be easily identifiable in bright orange t-shirts. OWRR and Housing have identification and will be wearing uniforms or OWRR T-shirts.

I hope this helps clarify expectations and practices regarding scavenging. I encourage each of you to talk about this with your supervisor or staff members. Common understanding and clear expectations are important and many people have strong feelings around this topic.

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