

## What Is Litter?

Litter is misplaced waste and trash. This visible form of pollution can disrupt wildlife, natural ecosystems, human health and safety, and communities.

## Where & Why Does Litter Originate?

- Individuals are the primary source of litter
- Motorists and pedestrians contribute a combined nearly 70% of litter
- Most littering behavior occurs on purpose
- A strong contributor to littering is the prevalence of existing litter
- Most littering occurs at a considerable distance from a receptacle
- Individuals under 30 are more likely to litter than those who are older

## How Does Litter Affect Our Community?

- Reduces aesthetic appeal and property values
- Can harm animals when they eat it or become entangled in it
- Costs billions of dollars to remove

## What Can I Do?

- Educate others to prevent littering
- Clean it up - Littered environments attract more litter, so by decreasing the amount of litter we see we can decrease the probability of litter accumulating in that area
- Make it pretty - Communities that make an effort to “beautify” result in lower rates of littering behavior
- Make it easy - Provide sufficient trash, ash, and recycling receptacles
- Bring reusable items, instead of disposable, to picnics
- Dispose of waste properly in trash cans, recycling bins, or composting receptacles
- Discourage the release of helium balloons—they often return to ground and harm wildlife
- Cover truck beds—loose items can fly out and create litter

## Most frequently littered items

	Cigarette butts
	Food remnants
	Food wrappers
	Food containers
	Beverage containers (cans)
	Napkins
	Paper, including straw wrappers

Source: Keep America Beautiful, Litter Research, 2015

## Top 10 Items Collected

	Cigarette Butts <b>2,248,065</b>
	Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.) <b>1,376,133</b>
	Beverage Bottles (Plastic) <b>988,965</b>
	Bottle Caps (Plastic) <b>811,871</b>
	Straws, Stirrers <b>519,911</b>
	Other Plastic Bags <b>489,968</b>
	Grocery Bags (Plastic) <b>485,204</b>
	Beverage Bottles (Glass) <b>396,121</b>
	Beverage Cans <b>382,608</b>
	Cups & Plates (Plastic) <b>376,479</b>

Source: Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup, 2015