

## **Litter Facts**

## 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.

## **How Does Litter Affect Texas Waterways?**

- Decreases water quality
- Blocks storm drains, which can cause flooding
- Reduces aesthetic appeal and property values
- Can kill thousands of animals when they eat it or become entangled in it
- Damages fishing and recreational boats
- Causes injury to swimmers and bathers
- Costs millions of dollars to remove

## What Can I Do?

- Bring reusable items, instead of disposable, to waterway picnics.
- Dispose of waste properly in trash cans or recycling bins.
- Discourage the release of helium balloons—they often return to water and harm wildlife.
- Cover truck beds—loose items can fly out and create litter.
- Educate others to prevent littering—many items discarded on land end up in waterways.
- Prevent yard clippings or any waste materials from entering sewers—these clog waterways and destroy aquatic habitats.



Photo courtesy of Keep Waco Beautiful

