

LITTER INFORMATION

LITTER

Litter comes in all shapes and sizes - from a cigarette butt to a tire. It can be found on roadsides, sidewalks, in parks or on private property.

Intentional littering is a behavioral choice based on apathy, lack of social pressure to do the right thing, ignorance of the law and an absence of realistic penalties or consistent enforcement, or it is a social rebellion and a disregard of authority. People who litter represent a variety of social economic backgrounds.

Unintentional littering can result from unsecured vehicle loads and overflowing trash containers and dumpsters.

ILLEGAL DUMPS

Illegal dumps are found in isolated locations in both rural and urban areas. Like litterers, illegal dumpers come from all walks of life. Often these individuals are looking to avoid paying trash disposal costs or are unaware of how to properly dispose of items. Most dumpsites contain the following: tires, household trash, appliances, bulky items, vehicle parts, construction/remodeling debris, brush and other woody materials.

QUICK LITTER TIPS

- Don't litter.
- Learn about litter so you can teach others that prevention is a wise choice to make.
- If you see a friend litter, tell them why they shouldn't litter.
- If you see litter, pick it up. (Unless it is broken glass which should be swept up.)
- Adopt-A-Highway near you – [visit the website](#)

The Life Span of Commonly Discarded Litter

Item	Decomposition Time
Glass Bottle	Approximately 1 Million Years
Plastic 6-Pack Collar	450 Years
Aluminum Can	200 – 500 Years
Plastic Jug	70 Years
Rubber Boot Sole	50 – 80 Years
Steel Cans	50 Years
Leather	Up To 50 Years
Nylon Fabric	30 – 40 Years
Plastic Film Canister	20 – 30 Years
Painted Wooden Stake	13 Years
Degradable Plastic Bag	10 – 20 Years
Disposable Diapers	10 – 20 Years
Wool Clothing	One – Five Years
Cigarette Butt	One – Five Years
Cotton Rag	One – Five Months
Orange Peel/Banana Peel	Two – Five Weeks
Piece Of Paper	Two – Four Weeks
Traffic Tickets	Two – Four Weeks
Rolled Newspaper	Two – Six Weeks
Candy Wrapper	One – Three Months
Rope	Three – 14 Months