



Littering is not just a
crime, it's an insult to
our community

Knowing more about litter is the first step
to a cleaner community.

What is and is not litter?

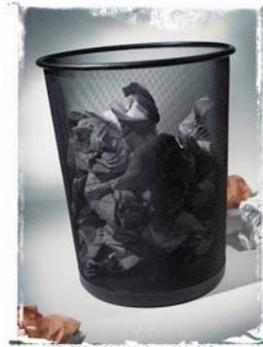
Litter is trash that is not disposed of properly in a trash can. When it's in the can, it becomes garbage. Anywhere else, it's litter. Just to be clear, the following is definitely and undeniably LITTER:

Cigarette butts – they're small but they're a nuisance

Gum –c'mon people

Apple cores – even though they'll decompose

UFT – Unidentified Flying Trash that flies out of a car window or truck bed
– accidentally or otherwise





Penalties for Littering in Texas

Littering is against the law and you can be fined up to \$500 for trash less than or equal to five pounds or five gallons. Repeat the offense, and you could face a fine up to \$2,000 and 180 days in jail.

It gets worse.

Discarding trash that weighs more than five pounds is considered illegal dumping and carries even steeper fines. In Texas, failing to cover your pickup-truck load is against the law and carries a fine of up to \$200 for the first offense and \$500 for repeat offenders.

Any law enforcement officer in Texas can enforce these laws.



Litter just doesn't appear – it's the result of careless attitudes.

Why people Litter-

- They feel no sense of ownership.
- They believe someone else will pick up after them.
- Litter has already accumulated.



Litter Facts

There are 7 primary sources

- Household trash handling and its placement at the curb/alley for collection
- Dumpsters used by businesses
- Loading docks
- Construction Sites
- Trucks with uncovered loads (not just commercial vehicles)
- Pedestrians
- Motorists



More Facts

■ Cigarette Butt

Takes 2-5 years to break down. Cigarette butts make up nearly 20% of all items littered and leach toxic chemicals into our water.

■ Plastic bottle

Takes one million years to break down and release a harmful chemical, BPA, into our water when it degrades. Twenty-six (26) billion plastic water bottles are thrown away annually.

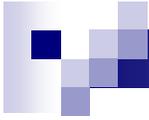


Litter and Your Taxes

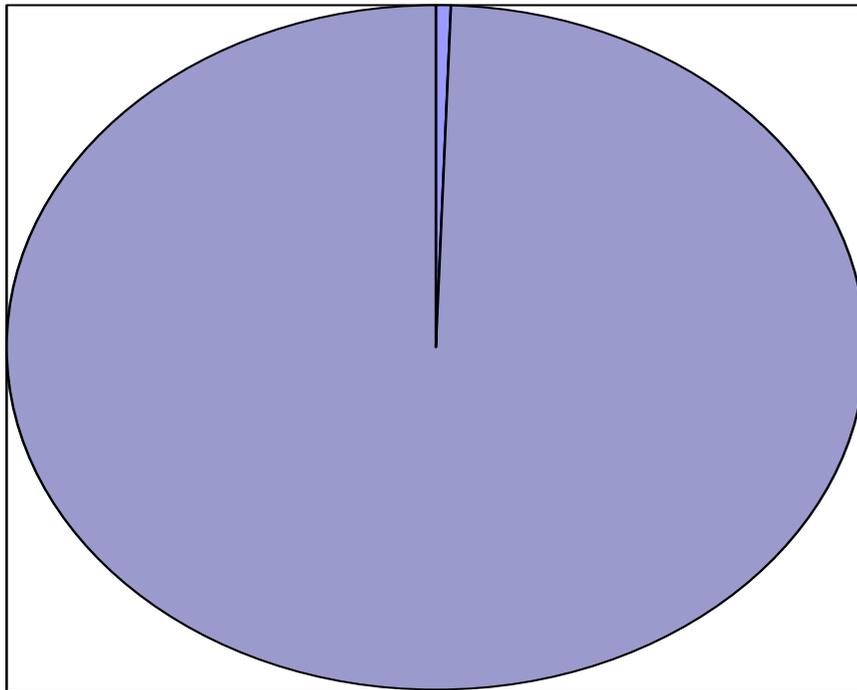
- **\$24 Million dollars** are spent every year to pick up trash off the roadsides

That is an expensive tab for maid service!

- Only 10% of Highways are cleaned by volunteers, the other 90% are cleaned by people paid with your tax dollars.
- Inmate Labor is not FREE
 - Transportation
 - Guard
 - Equipment
 - Staff
 - Food



Percentage of Staff vs. Population



-  **Number of City Staff**
-  **City Population**



What Can I Do?

- Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
- Take personal **responsibility** for your own garbage and encourage others to do the same.
- Recycle
- Carry a litter bag in your car
- Make sure trash cans have lids. Don't place loose trash out for pick-up. Use a bag of sufficient strength and do not over fill.
- Follow the guidelines for trash and bulk placement.
- Cover open loads on trucks.
- Scoop the poop! Properly remove all pet waste.
- If you or a member of your family is involved in a civic group or organization, Adopt-A-Spot to maintain on a regular basis.
- Volunteer to organize a Clean-Up day in your neighborhood.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If you see it, pick it up!





City Brush and Bulk Pick-Up

- Six times per year on the even months.
- Must be at curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of your collection week – No exceptions!
- Not out prior to Saturday before.
- Brush 4 foot by 4 foot by 16 feet in length.
- Bulk – Items that are too big for regular trash pick up. Furniture, carpet, household items.
- No construction materials or hazardous items.
- No placement on vacant lots, this will not be picked up.

Follow City Regulations on Bulk Pick-Up



Benefits of a Clean Community:

Higher Property Values

Community Pride

Sense of Ownership in Community

Attraction of New Businesses

More Attractive Environment

