



Myths about Litter

MYTH: Littering creates jobs.

FACT: Littering costs money. Last year taxpayers paid millions for roadside cleanup. Transportation Departments, Keep America Beautiful, Adopt a Highway programs spend millions to clean up litter.

FACT: Taxpayers pay for City, Counties, States, National Agencies, Forestry, Park and Recreation Departments, Prisons, Corporate clean ups. With all the combined, litter costs are in the **Billions**.

MYTH: No one notices litter.

FACT: Litter destroys the beauty of a community. Tourism is an important part of any economy. People come from all over the world to view the beauty of our countryside, towns and cities. When litter mars their enjoyment, cities, counties and businesses loses valuable tourist dollars.

FACT: Studies suggest that neighborhoods that are heavily littered experience more vandalism and other crimes.

MYTH: Litter Control is not important.

FACT: Litter affects everyone. Litter may not be the most dramatic or exciting of the many problems that threaten the quality of our environment but it is a problem which affects everyone in the community.

MYTH: Only “certain types” of people litter.

FACT: Litterbugs are everywhere! “Litterbugs” can be found among people of every age, sex, race and geographic location, and in every level of society.



MYTH: Littering only occurs when there is no Trash Can.

FACT: Most Littering occurs within 6 yards from a trash can.

MYTH: Litter doesn't affect the economy.

FACT: Litter discourages economic development. Litter impacts real estate values. Good stores and important businesses will not locate in a community which lacks the pride to effectively control litter.

MYTH: Litter doesn't hurt anyone.

FACT: Litter is a safety hazard. Litter is a breeding ground for fire and disease.

FACT: Litter impacts car insurance rates because many auto accidents are litter-related.

FACT: Ingesting litter causes injury or death to thousands of pets as well as wildlife and farm animals.

FACT: Litter is a breeding ground for rats and disease-causing bacteria.

MYTH: Litter is just a visible thing

FACT: Litter finds its way into lakes, streams, oceans and groundwater.

MYTH: Cigarette filters are biodegradable

FACT: Filters can take up to 100 years to decompose

FACT: Cigarette butts also present a threat to wildlife.