

● ● ● | Did you know ...

→ Studies have shown that an individual who would never litter a beverage can, fast food packaging or other items may be dropping cigarette litter. Because it is small, many do not regard a cigarette butt as litter—more than any other form of litter, it is viewed differently by the general public.

→ Even though cigarette butts are small, they are still considered litter and violators of the law can be fined up to \$500.



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## Cigarette Litter

Information Guide

[www.keepbullochbeautiful.org](http://www.keepbullochbeautiful.org)

# “No butts about it, cigarettes are litter too!”

## *Background:*

Cigarette butts are litter. Partially smoked cigarettes, matches, disposable lighters, packaging as well as cigarette butts are all part of this growing national problem.

Ever tightening restrictions on smoking in public places in recent years have forced smokers outside contributing to an increase in cigarette litter.

Appropriate ash receptacles are often not available to meet the increase demand of smokers who have moved from businesses and restaurants to the sidewalks to smoke.



## *Cigarette Litter Facts:*

- Research shows cigarette butts represent over 20% of the litter collected in many community cleanup initiatives.
- Cigarette filters contain fibers that resemble a cotton thread called cellulose acetate that break down in the environment at a slow pace and are not completely biodegradable.
- About 18% of all litter dropped to the ground is washed into streams, rivers, lakes and oceans by storm water runoff, creating a great danger to wildlife.

## *What you can do to help:*

Focus your attention and efforts on educating adults who smoke to consider the following actions:

- Use a portable ashtray in your car
- Carry a pocket ashtray
- Use ash trash receptacles when smoking outside
- Do not throw butts out of car windows
- Be aware of local litter ordinances.

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