



## DID YOU KNOW...?

When you recycle the items are reprocessed and made into new products. This reduces the amount of natural resources such as water, coal, oil, sand and metal ore used to manufacture new products. When you recycle 1000 tonnes of recycling you save:



**6** Olympic swimming pools of water




Greenhouse gas savings equal to removing **121** cars off the road




Energy savings equal to the annual electricity needs of **71** households

## Litter Facts

 Littering is an environmental crime. Litterers can be fined from \$100 to over \$6000 for littering.

 The most common reasons for littering are 'too lazy', 'no ashtray', 'no bin'

 Cigarette butts are the most littered item, making up half of all litter.

 Approximately 7.2 billion cigarette butts are littered in Australia each year. If laid end to end, the line of butts would circle the earth 3.6 times.

 Common litter items are cigarette butts, chewing gum, takeaway food packaging, drink containers, paper, plastics, shopping trolleys and organic material

*Facts courtesy of the Victorian Litter Action Alliance*

## Look out for Litter!

Every piece of litter damages our environment. Litter can make an area look uncared for and dirty and can attract more litter. Littered areas are not pleasant to be in and are less likely to be used by people. Some types of litter can even cause harm to us.

Litter is mobile and often ends up in our waterways through stormwater drains or by being blown by wind. Waste in the form of litter also poses a threat to wildlife. Litter such as cigarette butts, plastic bags and other plastics can harm animal and marine life by polluting the water they live in, causing entanglement or choking if eaten.

So what can we do to help Australia and our local environment to stay litter free?

- \* Reducing the amount of litter we produce in the first place. How about trying to make a waste free meal next time you have friends over and only buy recyclable products;
- \* Encourage your school or local shops enter in the Plastic Bag Reduction Awards (see the Keep Australia Beautiful website below); and
- \* Finding out more about litter through these websites listed below:



## Litter Links



- **Clean Up Australia - Clean Up Australia Day**- [www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au)
- **Keep Australia Beautiful - Litter Index and Plastic Bag Reduction Award** - [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)
- **NSW Police - Litter Laws** - [www.policensw.com/info/gen/l1a.html](http://www.policensw.com/info/gen/l1a.html)
- **NSW Government - Litter Prevention Program**  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/litter](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/litter)

**Waste Hotline**  
**1300 725 415**

For education enquiries  Sue Clarke 6393 8772.







**NetWaste**  
A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

# NetWaste Community News

*A Collaborative Approach*

## **Butt.. it really is a problem!**

**Cigarette smoke contains up to 4000 chemicals.**

**Cigarette butts take up to 5 years to break down.**







**17% of the total rubbish items collected on Clean Up Australia Day 2004 were cigarette butts.**

**A cigarette butt can smoulder for up to three hours causing a grass fire or bushfire.**

**Cigarette butts contain dangerous poisonous chemicals including arsenic, lead and cadmium which can leak into water within one hour of contact.**

Source: Clean Up Australia [www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au)

## **What can I do?**

-  **Carry your own mini ashtray around with you. These can be purchased at Coles and Bi-Lo supermarkets. For more information go to [www.buttsout.net/australia](http://www.buttsout.net/australia). You could even try making your own by reusing a plastic film container and lid.**
-  **Before you light up look around for the correct bin.**
-  **Put an ashtray in your car.**
-  **Educate those people around you such as friends and family about the impacts cigarette butts have on the environment and encourage them not to litter.**
-  **Make sure your workplace has suitable butt disposal facilities.**
-  **Give up smoking.**

## **Other littering facts!**

### **Who Litters?**

- Men and women are equally likely to litter
- People under 15 are least likely to litter
- People between 15-24 have a slightly higher rate of littering than other adults
- Social contexts effect littering eg people may litter when alone but not in public

### **Where and When.**

- Most littering happens within 5 metres of a bin, especially cigarette butts
- Bins are used mostly between 11.00am to 2.00 pm but littering is most likely to happen at about 4.00pm
- The more litter is present the more people are likely to litter so please help keep the environment litter free

### **Behaviour.**

There are a couple of litter behaviour types:

- 1: Wedgers- who hide litter in cracks
- 2: Buriers- who bury items particularly on the beach
- 3: Foul shooters- who try to basketball shoot it into the bin
- 4: Inchers- who gradually distance themselves from litter items

Source: DECC August 2007 <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/litter/index.htm>



**Waste Hotline 1300 725 415**