

Things You Can Do to Help Stop Litter

- 🗑️ Set an example – don't litter
- 🗑️ Keep a bag for litter in your car (and put litter in it).
- 🗑️ Properly dispose of tobacco products. (Throwing them on the ground is not included in the words "properly dispose of!")
- 🗑️ Participate in recycling programs
- 🗑️ Create less waste by practicing the "3 Rs:"
Reduce, reuse and recycle. Reduce the amount of trash you discard. Reuse containers and products; repair what is broken or give it to someone who can repair it. Recycle as much as possible including buying products with recycled content.
- 🗑️ Don't dump anything down a storm drain.
- 🗑️ Use (and reuse) canvas bags when you shop for groceries.
- 🗑️ Don't take plastic bags from a store if you can carry your items without them.
- 🗑️ Avoid purchases with excess packaging. Buy recycled products whenever possible.
- 🗑️ Keep your yard clear of things that could become litter.
- 🗑️ When you visit a park, "pack it in and pack it out" – take home what you bring in. Take your refuse and recyclables home with you and recycle them or dispose of them properly as compost or (last resort) trash.
- 🗑️ Make sure your household garbage or recycling containers can't come open, spill and become litter.
- 🗑️ Close the lid tightly on your refuse containers and don't overfill them.
- 🗑️ Contact your city or county officials if there are no trash bins at your local parks or public areas.
Encourage your parks to begin recycling programs.

Possible Reasons We Have Litter

- 🌐 Our culture is filled with disposable items.
- 🌐 There is a lack of education at home and at school.
- 🌐 The idea that "someone else" will pick up litter.
- 🌐 People feel disconnected from nature.

Ideas to Help Stop Litter

- 🗑️ Parents – teach children not to litter.
Explain that trash is "tacky". The most effective anti-litter campaign begins at home.
- 🗑️ Recycle more items.
- 🗑️ Pick up litter on your travels.
- 🗑️ Each community needs to take responsibility (and action to maintain) its own appearance.
- 🗑️ More people could adopt highways, streams and parks and keep them cleaner.
- 🗑️ Raise awareness so that responsibility for our community's appearance rests with each individual.
- 🗑️ Start an anti-litter education program in your community aimed at preschool aged kids.

Check Out the Stop Litter – Tennessee's Had Enough Web Site

- 💡 According to the Web site for "Stop Litter – Tennessee's Had Enough," (stoplitter.org/litterlounge.html), results of national studies "have consistently shown that 18-34 year olds contribute the most to deliberate litter." This Web page reports that results of contacting some 600 persons ages 18-34 across the state of Tennessee and asking them about litter showed that:
 - 💡 Overall, 57% of women say they never litter.
 - 💡 Overall, 37% of men say they never litter.
 - 💡 As people get older, they litter less.
 - 💡 62% of those surveyed said litter affects the way other people view their communities.
 - 💡 27% thought litter has the most impact on the environment.
 - 💡 6.5% said it negatively affects economic development.
 - 💡 4.7% said litter affects public safety.
 - 💡 Only the smokers polled reported that they properly dispose of cigarette butts (extinguishing them in ash receptacles or throwing the cigarette butts in a trash can).
 - 💡 20% said they frequently throw cigarette butts out of their car window.