

FACT SHEET

ROADSIDE

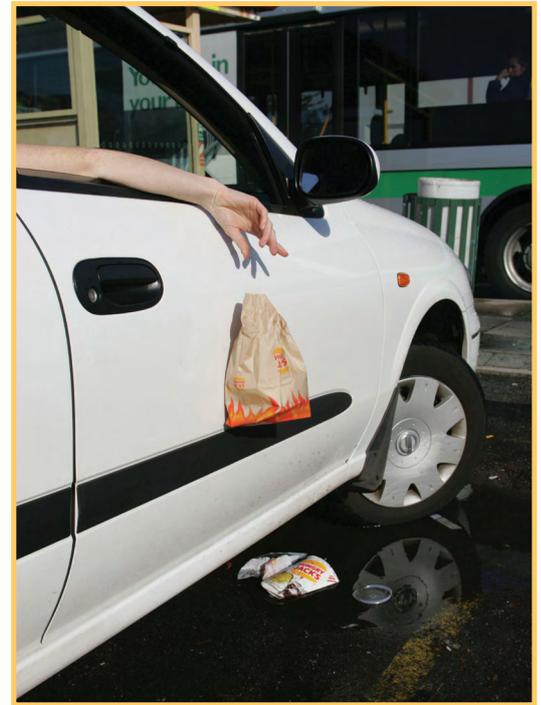


WHAT IS ROADSIDE LITTER?

Roadside litter occurs on our streets, roads, freeways and highways. It can come from a range of sources, including vehicles, illegally dumped rubbish and being blown from businesses, shopping precincts or private property.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- The main material types littered on our roadsides are cigarette butts, glass, illegal dumping, metal, miscellaneous, paper/paperboard and plastic.
- According to the National Litter Index 2010, packaging materials contribute to 70 per cent of the volume of highway litter and 41 per cent of the number of littered items in WA.
- Plastic beverage containers make up the highest volume of roadside litter in WA.
- Disposing organic matter, such as an apple core, incorrectly is still littering. Littering your food can draw animals to the roadside or cause them to ingest bacteria that may be harmful to them.
- It is estimated that clean-up costs for local government, state government agencies and community groups in WA are more than \$20 million a year.
- Litter damages the environment and can create hazards for motorway users.
- Roadside litter has a high chance of entering the stormwater system where it can cause damage to local waterways, flooding and blockage of drainage systems and threats to areas such as swimming beaches and urban wetlands where water is discharged.
- Litter in our waterways and environment impacts on flora and fauna.
- Cigarette butts thrown from vehicles are a major fire hazard.



- We must significantly reduce the amount of litter in our environment to protect the health, safety and visual quality of the environment, people and wildlife.

LITTERING IS ILLEGAL

Throwing litter from a vehicle or leaving litter on our roadsides is against the law. Under the **Litter Act 1979** you can be fined \$200 on-the-spot or face court action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP REDUCE ROADSIDE LITTER

- Always put your litter in a bin.
- Use a Keep Australia Beautiful re-usable rubbish bag in your car to collect rubbish.
- Spread the word to others and make sure passengers in your vehicle know the laws.
- If you are planning a trip in WA take one of Keep Australia Beautiful's free outback clean-up packs with you.
- If you are someone who does the right thing, you can also help make a difference by registering to become a litter reporter.

For more information on
Keep Australia Beautiful
programs visit
www.kabc.wa.gov.au
or phone 6364 7210

REFERENCES

Victoria Litter Action Alliance; Stormwater Management Manual for Western Australia
Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index