



Litter facts

Top Ten Litter Items:

TOP 10

Fast Food Items*	28.8%
Beverage Cans	7.1%
Styrofoam	5.7%
Cardboard	5.2%
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	4.6%
Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	4.5%
Tire Parts	4.1%
Grocery/Convenience Store Plastic Bags	3.7%
Miscellaneous Paper	3.0%
Clothing/Rags	3.0%

* Fast food litter includes bags, food wrappers, napkins, cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons, containers, snack bags, straws and stirrers.

Source: Arizona Clean and Beautiful



Don't throw money out the window!

Did you know that littering can cost drivers and their passengers a misdemeanor fine of **\$500** in the state of Arizona? Think about it. The fast food that cost you \$5 could end up costing you \$500 when you toss that bag out the window. Isn't it easier to simply find a trash can?

For more
information,
please visit:



www.DontTrashAZ.com

If you see someone littering
from a vehicle, please call:

1-877-3LITTER



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LITTER

**It's ugly.
It's unhealthy.
It's unsafe.**

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), has launched a Litter Education and Prevention Program to help reduce the amount of litter on Valley and state freeways.

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR STATE:

Don't Trash Arizona!





Why do people litter?

Why do people litter our freeways?

While many Arizonans take pride in our state, some believe that one small piece of trash won't matter. But even small pieces of litter add up to a giant problem: about 151,000 bags of trash are picked up off Valley freeways every year.



Research conducted by MAG and ADOT shows that littering is a complex behavior that can be attributed to a variety of sources. Litterers can be influenced by a number of factors, including people thinking an item is not litter (such as a cigarette butt), laziness, lack of consequences for their actions, seeing litter already in a given area, or a lack of trash bins.

While 60 percent of litter is intentional, about 40 percent of litter comes from debris blowing out of the backs of pickup trucks or falling from other types of unsecured loads.

How litter hurts us all...

Costs to our Economy

It costs our region about \$3 million and nearly 150,000 labor hours each year to pick up litter along Valley freeways.

Unightly litter also impacts our economy when tourists and prospective businesses choose not to come back to our state due to a poor impression.

Environmental and Health Problems

Litter is not only unsightly, it is unsanitary and can cause environmental and health problems. Cigarette butts, for example, contain toxic chemicals that can end up in storm drains and contaminate our water systems.

Trash and other items falling from unsecured loads can cause serious traffic accidents. Debris on roadways nationwide causes 25,000 accidents each year and more than 80 fatalities. Between 1999 and 2001, Arizona reported five fatal accidents due to road debris.

Increases the "Time Tax"

Accidents and slow-downs due to roadway debris increase the time we spend stuck in traffic.



Take pride: how you can help

Don't Trash Arizona!

The most important thing you can do is to take pride in our state. Refrain from littering yourself and prevent friends and family from littering. Here are some simple steps you can take to prevent freeway litter:

Use Litterbags

Three in five residents statewide say they keep a litterbag in their vehicle. If you do not have a litterbag in your vehicle, please add one. We'll even get you started. Visit DontTrashAZ.com for a free litterbag.

Secure Your Loads

Litter should not be put in the beds of pickup trucks, to prevent unintentional littering. More serious problems arise when "accidental" litter—such as ladders, mattresses, furniture, landscaping and construction debris—falls off trailers or other vehicles. But failing to secure loads is no accident. It is the driver's responsibility to make sure that loads are properly secured with tarps and tie-downs.

Keep Your Butts in the Car

Cigarette butts are one of the most common litter items that are deliberately tossed from vehicles. It can take many years for cigarette butts to decompose, and when it rains, the toxic chemicals in cigarettes make their way into our water supply. Throwing cigarette butts out of car windows also increases the risk of costly wildfires.

Volunteer

ADOT has 2,200 Adopt-a-Highway volunteers and more than 100 companies sponsoring litter cleanup efforts statewide.

