



The first days and weeks of a new year are a time of reflection, a time to assess the accomplishments and, in some instances, the missteps of the previous year. It also is a time when people make positive changes, not only for themselves, but for their surroundings. One way people can make a positive impact in their environment is by resolving not to litter. Litter on Arizona freeways is costly, both in terms of appearance and revenue.



Everyone knows that litter is ugly. Trash on roadways is an eyesore to local residents and visitors alike, and more importantly, it makes a bad impression to those exploring the Valley for a move or business relocation. Similarly, freeway litter is pricey, costing the Maricopa County region \$3 million a year in litter removal, including 150,000 labor hours. That's no small expenditure as our state faces many fiscal problems, but Arizona drivers can be part of the solution just by resolving not to litter.

If you're looking to make good on at least one New Year's resolution this year, the vow to not litter is certainly achievable. We've made it easy. [Take the Don't Trash Arizona pledge.](#)

Here are some quick tips to help you keep your resolution:

- Use litterbags in your vehicle.
- If you smoke, use a portable ashtray in your vehicle.
- Secure large loads with straps, ropes or bungee cords.
- Cover up loose loads like lawn clippings with a tarp or net.
- Properly maintain tires to avoid the degeneration of tire treads.





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