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Don't Go Bananas - Biodegradable Items Are Litter, Too!

If asked to imagine litter, visions of discarded fast food wrappers and cans would likely come to mind. However, there is more to litter than carelessly tossed trash. Biodegradable items like apples, oranges and bananas that are taken along in the car as quick, portable snacks but later thrown out the window are also a type of litter. Still, many believe that because such items will eventually decompose, they are not truly harmful to the environment. They couldn't be more wrong!



A discarded apple core, banana peel or orange peel can take up to two years to biodegrade. And because litter attracts more litter, others who see the mess are also tempted to toss out trash. This ugly and unhealthy roadside trash can turn off tourists and businesses and impact our economy when they decide to go elsewhere. In addition, tossed food can be unsafe to animals when the discarded food tempts them into the roadway and they are then hit by cars.

Instead of tossing those biodegradables out the window, try using a litter bag in your car or better yet, try composting at home. There are many websites online that can get you started, such as www.howtocompost.org and www.composting101.com.

For more information on what you can do to prevent litter, or to take the Don't Trash Arizona pledge, visit www.DontTrashAZ.com.



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