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Top 5 Holiday Gifts for Litterbugs Give the Gift of Anti-Littering for Repeat Trash Offenders

PHOENIX (Dec. 20, 2013) 'Tis the season for garland, gifts...and a whole lot of excess waste. Americans produce 25 percent more trash in the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than the rest of the year. This year fill stockings with fun and functional gifts, perfect for breaking the habits of litterbugs. The Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) anti-littering campaign, *Don't Trash Arizona*, has created a list (and checked it twice) of presents that will keep Arizona's desert trash-free.

"The holidays are the perfect time to help family and friends break littering habits," said MAG Chair Scott Smith, mayor of Mesa. "There are several great gift ideas that serve as handy reminders not to litter."

Here are a few gifts litterbugs should add to their Christmas list this year:

1. **Car Litter Bags:** Car litter bags can go beyond plastic trash bags and prove to be stylish, convenient and reusable. Bags are available in a variety of sizes and colors to fit the personality of the user and can be found at many major stores, car washes, auto parts stores and online specialty retailers.
2. **Pocket Ashtrays:** Handy for traveling smokers, portable ashtrays are the easiest way to ensure that cigarette butts always make it to the trash. Instead of tossing the cigarette butt on the ground, it can be neatly stored in the pocket ashtray until it can be properly discarded. Mobile ashtrays can be ordered on several [websites](#) or purchased at a number of local convenience stores.
3. **Kitchen Compost Bin:** For the chefs in the family who are always whipping up new recipes, a kitchen composter is a great gift for getting rid of leftover food and other organic material. Instead of food ending up in landfills, leftover ingredients can be added to the compost bin, which will later turn into organic soil that can be used in the garden. Compost bins can be found in different sizes and at retailers across the state.
4. **Anti-Littering Tech Cases:** Even techie friends can enjoy anti-littering gifts this holiday season! Several online retailers offer great personalized and predesigned cases for iPads, iPhones and Android phones, including ones that promote an [anti-littering message](#).
5. **Truck Tarps:** Approximately 25,000 accidents are caused by roadways debris each year, most of which are a result of unsecured loads. Give the gift of roadway safety this season with tarps for your friends with pickup trucks. These truck accessories are made with different materials such as mesh, fabric, nylon and more, and come in several different colors and sizes.

In addition to these gift ideas, MAG has also produced a series of videos with ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle this season through its ["Think Before You Shop"](#) campaign.

About *Don't Trash Arizona*

Don't Trash Arizona is a joint effort between the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Arizona Department of Transportation to address the economic, safety, and health impacts of freeway litter along regional and state highways. The program is funded through Proposition 400, which was approved by voters in 2004. That funding encompasses litter pickup, sweeping, and landscape maintenance, as well as litter education and prevention. *Don't Trash Arizona* seeks to change attitudes, awareness, and most importantly, behavior, when it comes to roadway littering. Visit www.DontTrashArizona.com.