

7 Sources of Litter

1. *Unsecured Loads* - Loads that are unsecured or uncovered can release many dangerous materials. Air pressure increases as trucks drive faster, and loose materials can be blown out of truck beds or trailers.

2. *Home Garbage* - Refuse containers that don't have tight-fitting lids, or no lids, can be knocked over by animals and the wind can spread the trash several blocks or even miles. Paper or plastic trash bags can be opened by animals.

3. *Loading Docks* - If storage bins or dumpster lids are not closed tightly, materials can become scattered.

4. *Business Trash* - If refuse bins do not have lids, or if the lids are not kept closed, materials can be scattered.

5. *Construction Sites* - Often construction or demolition materials are left unattended at the job site and may be scattered by the wind or runoff.

6. *Motorists* - Individuals who do not use car litter bags or litter containers at rest areas, gas stations and convenience stores will often use the roadside as their garbage can.

7. *Pedestrians* - Individuals generate waste while walking, jogging, biking, etc., and often do not wait to throw it in a trash can.



FACTS ABOUT LITTER:

- ❖ *80% of all littering is accidental.*
- ❖ *Litter is unsightly. It spoils the beauty of our county.*
- ❖ *Litter is widespread throughout the county - it is not just along roadways.*
- ❖ *Many types of roadside litter can take hundreds of years to disintegrate.*
- ❖ *Litter can pose a health risk.*
- ❖ *Litter on roadways may pose a threat to human safety.*
- ❖ *Litter is a threat to wildlife.*
- ❖ *Litter can affect tourism.*

For more information on waste reduction and recycling options in Douglas County, contact:

Countywide Solid Waste Programs
(509) 886 - 0899



DON'T BE A LITTERBUG



within
DOUGLAS
COUNTY

Douglas County is a beautiful

county. It's natural beauty is complemented by the charms of its' cities, towns and communities, all of which provide a delightful setting for people to live in or to visit. There are however, aspects of human behavior which diminish the beauty of our environment, and positive measures are required to counteract the damage which can be inflicted by carelessness on the part of a few.



LITTER is a serious problem in Douglas County. We need to work together to prevent litter because randomly discarded trash, even items as small as cigarette butts, endangers our environment, our wildlife and our economy. Douglas County residents cannot afford the cost of littering. It pollutes our `backyard', it decreases our property values, and cleaning it up wastes our tax dollars. Littering can also result in costly fines for litter law violators. Our scenic landscapes attract tourists from around the nation who put thousands of dollars into our local economy each year. We want them to enjoy our countys' natural beauty and charm, and tell their friends about us.



What is being done?

Jail trustees are utilized throughout the county to pick up litter on our county roadways, trails and parks. Each city and town within Douglas County submits litter projects that they would like to see picked up and at what frequency. The Countywide Solid Waste Program Office then puts together a schedule with the submitted projects, and a countywide litter clean-up program is implemented from April through October of each year. If you happen to see the trustee crew out picking up litter on our roadways, trails or parks, please slow down and give them a brake.

The Countywide Solid Waste Program Office also provides litter bags to organizations that wish to implement their own litter pick-up projects.



What can I do?

- Put litter in a trash receptacle or bring it home.
- Secure your load if you carry trash or loose materials in a truck or trailer.
- Keep refuse bins out of sight in a secure place safe from dogs and wildlife.
- Store refuse in a secure bin with a lid.
- Carry a litter bag in your vehicle and use it.
- Never throw anything from your vehicle windows.
- Avoid the accumulation of unsightly, unwanted materials around your property.

ENDURING LITTER.....

Roadside litter can last a long time:

Apple core	1 - 6 weeks
Traffic ticket	2 - 4 weeks
Cotton rag	1 - 5 months
Fiber rope	3 - 14 months
Wool sock	12 - 16 months
Cigarette filter	13 years
Wooden stake	15 years
Tin can	100 years
Aluminum can	200 - 500 years
Plastic 6-pack rings	450 years
Rubber tire	500 - 1,000 years
Glass	Undetermined

