



# Litter

## Help keep Queensland clean

### What is litter?

Littering is the unlawful disposal of any type of waste material that is less than 200 litres in volume (about the volume of a wheelie bin). In Queensland, the unlawful deposit of any amount of waste is an offence, and penalties apply.

Each year, thousands of tonnes of rubbish is littered in Queensland.

It can be anything from an apple core, cigarette butt, drink container or food wrappers to household items, such as a small appliance, chair or bags of clothing.

### Littering is serious, unhealthy, unsightly and unsafe

Litter dropped in streets, along the side of the road, or in bushland pollutes our natural environment, and can be washed or blown into creeks, waterways and ocean environments.

It can cause great harm and suffering to animals that may get entangled in the waste or ingest the littered items. Food wastes on roadsides can attract animals to busy roads increasing the danger to both drivers and the animals.

Dangerous littering is litter that causes, or is likely to cause, harm to a person, property or the environment, and higher penalties apply. This may include throwing a lit cigarette butt into bushland, leaving a hypodermic needle in a park, or smashing a glass bottle on a footpath.

### How long until it's gone?



**Cigarette Butts**  
up to 12 years\*



**Glass bottle**  
1 million years



**Aluminum can**  
200 years



**Plastic Bottle**  
450 years\*\*

\*The cellulose acetate (plastic) in filters never truly breaks down and remains in the environment forever.

\*\*Petrochemical (plastic) products never truly breakdown and remain in the environment forever.

### It's easy to help

There's two simple ways you can help reduce litter in Queensland's environment:

1. Keep your rubbish with you until you can find a bin.
2. If you see someone littering, report them!

Every person is responsible for their own rubbish.

**LITTERING IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE. FINES START AT \$260**

**DANGEROUS LITTERING FINES ARE OVER \$530.**

### Report littering

If you see someone littering from a motor vehicle, trailer or vessel you can report them at [www.qld.gov.au/litter](http://www.qld.gov.au/litter).

Report litter by pinning the location and uploading photos to the report.

Make sure you get as many details as you can, including:

- time, date, place and description of litter
- registration number, make/model, colours, or distinguishing features of vehicle
- description of the person making the offence (including location in vehicle, clothing, gender).

Remember it is illegal to use your mobile phone while driving and for your own safety do not approach the person depositing the waste.



▶ see it  
▶ report it  
▶ stop it

[www.qld.gov.au/litter](http://www.qld.gov.au/litter)



Queensland  
Government