

Trashy Tuesday

Education Supplement

Why Litter is Rubbish

1. People Make a LOT of Litter!



51 BILLION
Pieces of Litter Along US Roadways

2. Litter is Contagious!



15% OF LITTER
Is the Result of Existing Litter

3. Litter Travels!



9 MILLION TONS
Of Plastic Litter Enter Oceans Every Year

4. Litter Hurts!



100 MILLION SEA ANIMALS
Die Each Year from Eating or Being Trapped in Litter

Note: These resources can be viewed as a [slideshow](#)

People Make a Lot of Litter

You might only see a few pieces of litter on your street, but researchers found that on average there are more than 13 thousand pieces of litter per mile on American roadways. All together, it's estimated there are 51 billion pieces of litter on all US roads at any moment. If you add in ocean litter, there are more pieces of plastic in the seas than there are stars in the galaxy.

Litter is Contagious

When people see litter or others littering, they are more likely to litter themselves. In fact, research shows that about 15% of littering activities are motivated by existing litter in an environment.

Litter Travels

A plastic wrapper dropped in a parking lot doesn't stay there for long. It gets blown to the curb, washed through storm drains, into rivers, and out to sea. Scientists estimate that almost 9 million tons of plastic litter end up in the ocean annually. This is the equivalent of five grocery bags filled with trash sitting on every foot of coastline around the world.

Litter Hurts

Litter affects animal and human health. It's estimated that over 1 million land animals and 100 million sea animals die each year after eating or becoming trapped in litter. Litter also releases chemicals and tiny pieces of plastic debris leftover from the products we use called microparticles. These toxic particles end up in the air, in our water, and in the soil where we grow food.

Watch These Videos for Inspiration!



How Plastic Hurts the Environment

[Click here to watch!](#)



A Lesson on Littering

[Click here to watch!](#)