

# FACTS ABOUT CIGARETTE LITTER

## THE #1 MOST LITTERED ITEM

More than 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered worldwide each year and make up 30% of all trash collected during litter cleanups.



1

Cigarette filters are mostly made up of cellulose acetate, a plastic that will never biodegrade.

2

Cigarette filters leach toxic chemicals such as ammonia, lead, and arsenic, which degrades water quality.

3

Marine wildlife and birds often mistake cigarette butts as a food source causing illness or death.

4

In a study, the concentration of one cigarette butt in one liter of water killed half the fish exposed within 96 hours.

5

Land runoff into rivers and streams can bring cigarette butts discarded on land into the marine environment. **Nearly 80% of marine debris comes from land-based sources.**



# CIGARETTE LITTER PREVENTION PROGRAM

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT LITTER?

Keep Charleston Beautiful & Charleston Waterkeeper are dedicated to keeping cigarette litter out of our waterways.

1

Carry a portable or pocket ashtray when smoking outside and never throw cigarettes out the car window. Contact Keep Charleston Beautiful or Charleston Waterkeeper for free portable or pocket ashtrays.

2

Encourage smokers to be aware of where their cigarette will be discarded. Give them the facts - 80% of cigarette butts will end up in our waterways.

3

Encourage local businesses to provide cigarette receptacles for smokers. KCB and CWK can provide free receptacles to local restaurants, bars, and marinas.

4

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5

Be aware of local litter ordinances. You can be fined anywhere from \$200 to \$1000 for littering in the State of South Carolina. Cigarettes are litter, too!



For more information, please visit:  
[KeepCharlestonBeautiful.org](http://KeepCharlestonBeautiful.org)  
[CharlestonWaterkeeper.org](http://CharlestonWaterkeeper.org)

