



- Choose NOT to be a litter bug.
- Be an example - recruit others to be litter free with you.
- Volunteer - Many programs already exist. Visit the following website to see how you can get involved!
www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com
- Clean up after your pet.
- If you see litter, pick it up!

Resources:

- Keep America Beautiful: www.kab.org
- Keep Iowa Beautiful: www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com
- An Environmental Education Program of the Prague Post Endowment Fund:
<http://www.praguepost.cz/PPEF/09SC030219.pdf>

Litter Awareness



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A helpful guide of
facts and tips.

LITTER AWARENESS

Litter is a growing concern for our environment. Research and experience has shown that littering is mainly a matter of individual behavior - many choose to be careless in picking up after themselves or having proper receptacles to dispose of their waste. Having said that, a recent study done by Keep Iowa Beautiful showed that 80% of Iowans felt that litter was a problem. YOU can do your part in keeping our state beautiful and litter-free!!

WHY?

Research by Keep America Beautiful, Inc. found that people litter because:

- they feel no sense of ownership, even though areas such as parks and trails are public property.
- they believe someone else - a park maintenance or highway worker - will pick up after them.
- litter has already accumulated.



WHO?

Motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for litter. There are actually seven primary sources:

- household trash handling and its placement at the curb for collection
- dumpsters used by businesses
- loading docks
- construction and demolition sites
- trucks with uncovered loads
- pedestrians
- motorists



Litter is blown about by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building or fence. Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to add more.

FACTS

Consider these startling statistics. Below is a list of how long some common forms of litter take to decompose.

- Paper, 2-4 Weeks
- Candy wrapper, 1-3 Months
- Plastic bag, 1-5 Months
- Aluminum can, 200-500 Year
- Plastic drink bottle, 450 years
- Glass bottle, 1 million years

EFFECTS

Litter can cause a whole range of problems for everyone in a community.

- Litter discarded in streets and parks can travel through the storm water system to our streams and rivers, where it can cause harm to wildlife.
- Litter costs money. Removing these items from the environment costs everyone money.
- Litter is a threat to public health. It attracts vermin and is a breeding ground for bacteria.



- Litter can be a fire hazard. Accumulated litter and carelessly discarded cigarette butts are potential fire hazards.

- Litter looks bad. It negatively affects the image of places, especially tourist locations.
- Litter can harm or kill wildlife. Plastics can choke or suffocate birds and marine life. Carelessly discarded containers can trap small mammals.

Every "litter" bit helps!