## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Is there a fine for littering in California?**

A:  Yes. According to California law, it is a misdemeanor to throw anything from a moving vehicle.  The law prohibits littering, as well as throwing lighted cigarettes from a motor vehicle.  The penalty for littering is a $1,000 fine.

**Q: What is the number one litter item found along California highways?**

A: According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the number one litter item found along highways is cigarette butts.  Cigarette butts are a significant pollutant to our environment in our storm drains and on our highways. Storm water carries littered cigarette butts directly into our waterways where they can be ingested by marine life that mistake them for food. Cigarette butts can also release toxic chemicals into the water.

**Q: What other types of litter are found on our highways?**

A:  In addition to cigarette butts, Caltrans also finds objects such as mattresses, refrigerators, rugs, ladders, paper (including fast food wrappers, cups and napkins), bottles and cans along highways.

**Q. What does it cost taxpayers to remove litter from California highways?**

A: The current projected annual cost to the California Department of Transportation for litter prevention, clean-up and disposal is $41 million dollars. (Source: Caltrans Maintenance Program, October 2005)

**Q. How does litter affect California waterways?**

A: Litter can find its way into storm drains and pollute waterways and the environment. Untreated storm drain water can soak into groundwater, flow into canals and streams, and into recreational areas such as lakes, rivers and the ocean.

**Q. How can freeway and highway litter be prevented?**

A: -Always use a litterbag in your car.
   -Tie down loads within your truck bed.
   -Keep your pickup truck bed clean and free of debris that can fly out.

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