



## Cigarette Litter Pollution Info

If you are going to smoke please consider this information before you throw your cigarette butts on the ground.

These days everyone knows what smoking cigarettes does to our bodies, but the knowledge of what smoking does to the Earth is not as common. The pollution caused by cigarettes does not stop in our bodies or the air; it also affects the land we live on and the water that we drink.

### Effects on our water

#### Toxic Tea Bags – Cigarette Butts

Each butt contains the remnants of tobacco and paper plus the filter. The residue in the butts contains some very toxic and soluble chemicals.

Cigarette butts are not biodegradable! Given that the life of a cigarette butt thrown on the ground can stay there for up to 25 years, there is time for the toxic chemicals that the filters trap by design to leak out into the natural environment. These chemicals include arsenic, acetone, ammonia, benzene, cadmium,

formaldehyde, lead, and toluene. The poisonous potency of these lit-up leftovers is amplified when the butts are leached out by rainwater.

A recent laboratory study led by Elli Slaughter of San Diego State University, shows that when cigarette butts enter the water supply, they are deadly to fish and marine life. This is especially true if a small amount of tobacco clings to the stub. The study revealed that a single cigarette butt soaked in a liter of water for one day resulted in vastly diminished water quality and the death of 50 percent of the fish therein. The study also found that when tobacco was not present on the filter, it took four cigarette butts, rather than one, to leave the same wake of devastation.

## Our Wildlife

Toxic Snacks – Death by ingestion

Improperly disposed butts end up in the rivers and lakes where fish and animals eat them by mistake and quite often die from it.

Research conducted by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimated that cigarette debris is responsible for killing at least one million sea birds and 100,000 mammals annually.

## Our Trees

Toxic Sacrifice – They can't run away

In an hour cigarette-manufacturing unit requires almost 4 miles of paper for rolling and packaging of the cigarettes. One tree is wasted for every 300 cigarettes produced. Those trees could be filtering out the pollutants already in the air instead of being chopped down for the cause of adding new ones.

## Our Air

Toxic Burden – Enough Already

Cigarettes contain over 4000 chemicals which are exhaled and released into the air and the atmosphere.

## The Bottom Line

Cigarette butts discarded onto the ground look unattractive, are a major fire hazard in dry weather, and are extremely harmful to the environment.