

# Fact sheet: Reporting litter



Environment  
Protection  
Authority Victoria



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Fact sheet

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## Overview

This fact sheet contains advice for local governments on the impact of litter and how to encourage the community to report litter.

Littering poses environmental and health risks. Examples of litter include cigarette butts, plastic bags, food packaging, drinks containers and personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable gloves and masks.

Litter can attract pests which can damage our parks, waterways, wetlands and public spaces, and pose a threat to our native animals.

This is why it's important to do the right thing, to protect our community, by disposing of waste correctly. Every Victorian has a legal responsibility for the waste they produce, store, transport and dispose of.

## Current Victorian litter statistics and facts

### Cigarettes as litter

- Approximately 73 per cent of all Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) litter fines are for discarded cigarette butts.
- Nearly 60 per cent of all litter consists of cigarette butts or packaging.
- Cigarette butt litter pollutes Victoria's roadsides and waterways.
- A burning cigarette butt dropped from a car is a serious fire hazard.

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) and litter

- Masks, gloves and other PPE can be disposed of in your regular household rubbish bin. For more information see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Disposing of PPE at home and in the workplace](#) (publication 1898).
- Littering masks, gloves and any other PPE carries fines of \$330. Look after our environment and community by disposing of single-use PPE responsibly.
- As of March 2020, EPA has seen an increase in reports of litter such as disposable gloves and masks. EPA urges all Victorians to stay safe and dispose of PPE correctly.
- Many charity shops are not currently accepting donations. If your local charity shop is closed, or isn't accepting donations, please don't leave your donations outside. These donations become litter, which creates a huge cost for charities to clean up.

## Further information

Contact EPA on  
**1300 372 842** (1300 EPA VIC) or  
[contact@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@epa.vic.gov.au)

[epa.vic.gov.au/reportlitter](http://epa.vic.gov.au/reportlitter)



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## Balloons as litter

- A recent CSIRO study identified balloons among the top three most harmful pollutants threatening marine wildlife, along with plastic bags and bottles.
- Balloons end up in our waterways, oceans and parklands, causing significant damage to our environment and harming wildlife in many ways.
- Visit [Sustainability Victoria](#) for more wildlife-friendly alternatives to balloons, such as blowing bubbles.

## EPA's role in litter compliance and enforcement

EPA works with government, industry and community to use intelligence and surveillance to target littering. This includes using drones to investigate large-scale littering and illegal dumping across Victoria.

EPA receives about 20,000 reports of littering each year and has a dedicated team that aims to stop people littering.

Data analytics and intelligence will continue to inform our inspections and investigations into illegal waste disposal.

A detailed breakdown of the number of litter reports and infringements reported within individual local government areas is available upon request.

## How to report litter to EPA

Victorians can report littering from a vehicle to EPA via:

- EPA website [epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution](http://epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution)
- EPA Report Litter app. It is available on [Google Play](#) or through the [Apple Store](#)
- EPA 24-hour hotline on 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842).

Reporting littering helps EPA prevent harm to our environment and community from pollution and waste.

You should report littering within seven days of when you saw it happen.

You can report litter to EPA in the following situations:

- Report someone to EPA for littering from inside a vehicle, before they get into a vehicle or after they get out of a vehicle. Before an infringement is issued, EPA reviews any report of litter from a vehicle to validate the information and confirm the vehicle details with the Department of Transport (VicRoads).
- From a vehicle in a car park or on a road. It can be moving or parked. You can report littering by the driver or a passenger.

Anyone reporting litter to EPA is asked to provide the date, approximate time and place of the offence, the nature of the litter and any evidence of the identity of the person who committed the offence.

The person reporting the litter is not required to provide photographic or video evidence but must declare the information is true and correct and be willing to give evidence in court.

## More information about littering

- EPA website [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au).
- EPA 24-hour hotline on 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842).