



Mississippi Litter Facts

- **What is Litter?** Trash put in the wrong place. Waste DOES NOT belong on the ground, in the streams, rivers, or oceans, or along the streets or highways.
- **Litter is Ugly.** No one likes to live where there is litter. Neighborhoods with a litter problem usually have higher crime, lower property values, and less pride in their community.
- **Litter is Expensive.** The Mississippi Department of Transportation spends over \$3 million cleaning up litter. This money could prove helpful for other projects, like repairing roads. In addition, fires started by dropped or dumped rubbish cause millions of dollars of damage yearly.
- **Litter is Against the Law.** In Mississippi, if caught littering from a vehicle, you can be fined up to \$250.
- **Litter Hurts People.** Litter causes vehicle accidents too. People in these accidents are injured and sometimes even killed in their attempts to avoid debris on the roadways. Young children fall on litter in playgrounds, get cut, and need medical attention. In addition, trash can hurt and injure our Mississippi Department of Transportation Employees who work on state roadways.
- **Litter Kills or Injures Animals.** Many small animals crawl into bottles or jars and get stuck. Animals get caught in plastic six-pack rings, plastic bags, and fishing lines. Litter impaired birds can't fly away from danger. Animals get cut, infected, and often die.
- **Litter can kill or stunt plant growth.**
- **Litter is a problem that can be controlled, and YOU CAN HELP Make a Difference!** One way you can help control litter is by recycling. Recycling means taking materials from products you have finished using and making brand new products with them. For example, most aluminum cans in the United States are recyclable.