

# Don't mess with Texas<sup>®</sup>

## Litter Fact Sheet



### The Facts

Approximately 435 million pieces of visible litter accumulate on Texas roadways annually.

Since 2009, litter accumulation has decreased by 34 percent on Texas highways.



The most common forms of litter are small pieces of trash known as microlitter, such as straws, gum wrappers, and cigarette butts.

Tobacco trash is the most common form of litter found on Texas roadsides. More than 500,000 cigarette butts are deposited on Texas roadways each year, and the 2013 Texas Litter Survey found that cigarette butts represent 31 percent of all litter.



Shopping malls, gas stations, schools, fast food restaurants, and liquor stores contribute to roadway litter as evidenced by the density of related litter found near those sites.

In Texas, you can be fined \$500 each time you're caught littering with anything less than or equal to five pounds or five gallons. And littering can cost you even more than that. If you're caught littering anything between 5 and 500 pounds or between 5 gallons and 100 cubic feet, you could be fined up to \$2,000.

Litter cleanup cost Texas taxpayers \$35 million in 2014. With an estimated 1,000 people moving to Texas every day, the state has an ongoing need to conduct the Don't mess with Texas campaign to let new Texans know about the importance of litter prevention.

*\*Sources:*

*TxDOT's 2013 Visible Litter Study*

*The Keep America Beautiful 2009 National Visible Litter Survey and Litter Cost Study*

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