



Litter management

Keeping the foreshore, sand and water of our beaches clean is a responsibility shared by all – the council, State Government, traders, residents and visitors to City of Port Phillip.

It doesn't matter where you are in Melbourne, **YOUR** street litter ends up in **OUR** bay via the stormwater system – **BIN IT OR SWIM IN IT!**



Litter facts

- Cigarette butts are the single most common type of litter.
- 32 billion cigarette butts are discarded in Australia each year – if placed end to end they would extend 640,000 kilometres and circle the planet 16 times!
- Other common types of litter include paper, chip and confectionery wrappers, fast food packaging, bottle caps and soft drink bottles.
- Discarded litter is often washed into the stormwater system and end up on our beaches and in our rivers.

The lifespan of individual pieces of litter is longer than you think:

- Orange and banana peel – up to two years
- Cigarette butt – up to five years
- Plastic bag – 20 to 1000 years
- Aluminium can – 80 to 100 years
- Steel can – up to 50 years
- Plastic bottle – indefinitely
- Glass bottle – up to 1 million years

The council's role in litter management

- A mechanical footpath sweeper progresses through major shopping areas and works from 6am through to 3pm, 7 days per week.
- To assist in reducing the amount of litter entering our bay, the City of Port Phillip has installed litter traps in stormwater drains. The litter trap can capture anything from the size of a cigarette butt upward.

What you can do

- Provide windproof ashtrays outside your building for your employees.
- Sweep paved areas and pick up litter rather than hosing or sweeping it down into gutters and drains.
- Encourage cleaning, recycling and waste disposal activities within your business to reduce potential litter.
- Make sure your waste is put securely in your bin or recycling tub so it does not blow away and cannot be washed into the stormwater system.
- Pack a rubbish free lunch with reusable plastic containers and water bottles rather than plastic bags and juice boxes.

Material source: Clean Up Australia, EPA Victoria and EPA NSW websites.

For more information

To find out more about managing litter in your business, contact the Sustainable Traders Project Officer on (03) 9209 6474 or email karcher@portphillip.com.au, or visit <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/ecoedge.html>

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