

It's the Law

Littering is against the law. The Virginia State Code states:

33.1-346. Dumping trash on highways or private property. Any person shall be guilty of Class 1 Misdemeanor who dumps or otherwise disposes of trash, garbage, refuse, litter or other unsightly matter, on public property, including public highways right of way, or on private property without the written consent of the owner thereof or his agent.

46.2-1156. Allowing escape of load material; penalty. No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless such vehicle is constructed or loaded to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom. Violations of this section shall constitute a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

Litter Facts

1. Litter is not just ugly. It threatens health and safety too.

Litter provides a breeding place for rats, insects, and disease. One cubic foot of garbage is capable of generating 75,000 flies. Trash thrown from motor vehicles can temporarily blind drivers, increasing the number of accidents. Debris that falls from uncovered trucks is a constant threat to motorists.

2. Litter is a threat to wildlife and plants.

Small animals crawl into bottles and cans and can't get out. Plastic six pack holders entangle birds and other animals. Loggerhead turtles swallow plastic bags and die because the plastic bags resemble jellyfish – their favorite food. Litter breaks delicate plant stalks and stems and can eventually kill the entire plant.

3. Litter is expensive to pick up.

Litter cleanup costs Americans \$2.5 billion annually. It costs \$5 million a year in Virginia alone. Everyone pays these costs. Every year, motorists drop over 16,000 pieces of litter on each mile of primary highway.

4. Recycling – an appropriate alternative to littering.

The average American makes about 5 pounds of trash a day. A great deal of that trash could and should be recycled. Glass, aluminum, and plastic thrown from a car will last almost forever if it isn't picked up.

Remember: The owner or operator of the vehicle can be held accountable for litter

coming from a vehicle.



Report A Litterer

Keep Fairfax County Streets and Highways Clean and Litter Free

**Sponsored by
Clean Fairfax Council and
The Fairfax County
Police Department**

Littering is a Problem for Everyone!

A Virginia driver's license is a privilege and carries great responsibilities. One of the responsibilities of a licensed driver is to ensure the proper disposal of all trash from the vehicle.

This program will help by reminding people that litter has been thrown from their vehicle. To Report A Vehicle, take down the information described in this brochure. Give as much information as you can. Send the information to Clean Fairfax Council by mail, by phone or email. You can also visit our website and look under Report A Litterer. You can download the information and send it to us. When we receive the information on a certain vehicle, that information will be sent to the Fairfax County Police Department and they will send a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle. This letter will be advisory and will not result in any punitive action or further investigation. Neither the Fairfax County Police Department nor the Clean Fairfax Council will maintain a record of this as an actual traffic violation.

Reporting is Anonymous

Littering is illegal and anyone convicted of littering can be fined up to \$1,000.00 and/or sentenced up to 12 months in jail. Additionally, upon conviction, the Court may further order the defendant to community service removing litter from the highways. Virginia spends about 5 million tax dollars annually; and nationally, the cost is 2.5 billion tax dollars a year for litter cleanup. Debris in the roadway causes approximately 2,500 vehicular accidents a year. Littering is unhealthy and it damages our quality of life.

An auto litterbag or other means of disposal should always be available in your vehicle. Please encourage all drivers and occupants of your vehicle to use the ashtray or litterbag and obey the litter laws of the community.



A Fairfax County, VA Publication

How to Report A Litterer..

Littering is against the law. If you witness somebody littering from their car in Fairfax County, Mail this completed form within 7 days to Clean Fairfax Council. The Fairfax County Police Department will then contact the vehicle's owner.

Car _____ Truck _____ Other _____

Virginia License #: _____

Littering done by:

_____ Driver _____ Passenger

_____ Tossed _____ Dumped from vehicle

Type of litter: _____

Date of violation:

_____ Time _____ AM/PM

Location of Violation: _____

Clean Fairfax Council

12000 Government Center Pkwy ,

Suite 467

Fairfax, VA 22035

*You can mail this folder, report by phone at 703-324-3106 or visit our website:

www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org

and follow link to 'Report A Litterer'.