

How Tobacco Waste Harms the Environment

Cigarette Butts

Cigarette butts comprise 30-40% of all items collected in international coastal and urban cleanups. The sun may break cigarette butts down, but only into smaller pieces of waste which dilute into water and/or soil. Cigarettes have been identified as one of the biggest polluters among our surroundings and wildlife's habitats. Cigarette butts can be a point source for heavy metal contamination in water, which may harm local organisms.



E-Cigarettes

Vaping is creating a recycling nightmare. An estimated 55 million adults will be vaping by 2021, producing millions of devices that may be disposed of improperly. Because of heavy metals and residual nicotine, e-cigarettes qualify as both e-waste and biohazard waste. Single-use pods such as JUUL often end up as litter, compounding the issue of tobacco product litter.

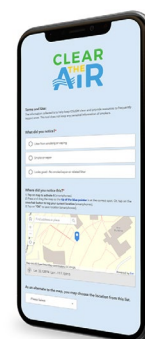
Electronic smoking devices also emit secondhand aerosol, which contains nicotine, ultrafine particles, and low levels of toxins that are now a new source of pollution and toxins being emitted into the environment.



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