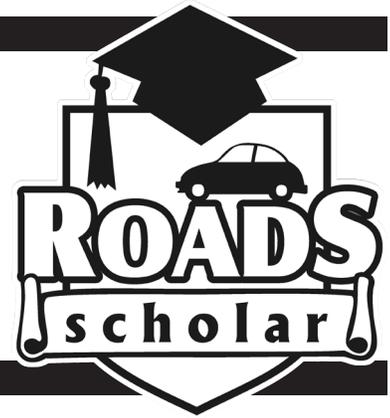


Green Driver Project Supplement Page

# DON'T LITTER!



OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

Littering isn't cool. It's against the law. It's also a crime. You can be fined up to \$1,000, sent to jail for a year or both.\* If you see someone littering, call **1-877-7-LITTER**.

## Here's the law.

- You can't litter anywhere. Remember, it's against the law in South Carolina.
- Cigarette butts are litter and a fire hazard. You can be fined more than \$200 for one cigarette butt tossed out the window. Plus, with court fines and court fees, your total fine could be close to \$470. Is one cigarette butt worth \$470 to you?
- If you have stuff in the back of a truck or trailer that can blow away, it must be secured or covered. No excuses.
- If you haul tree limbs or yard trimmings, they cannot drag on the road or cover the vehicle's lights or license plate.
- Your car (or truck) can be taken away (confiscated and not returned to you) if you dump large amounts of litter.

To learn more about reducing litter in South Carolina, contact PalmettoPride at **1-877-7LITTER** or visit [www.palmettopride.org](http://www.palmettopride.org).

\* The minimum fine for littering is \$200. The maximum fine is \$1,000. Remember, each fine has a 100 percent court assessment that doubles the amount you will pay and additional court fees. If you're found guilty, you may go to jail for 30 days to one year. You may have to do community service and litter pick-up, too.

## Here's the breakdown.

Litter lasts a long time. Here's how long it takes for some litter to decompose.

TYPE OF LITTER	YEARS TO DECOMPOSE
Cigarette Butt	5 years
Plastic Bag	20 years
Tin Can	50 years
Styrofoam Cup	50 years
Aluminum Can	200 years
Plastic Bottle	450 years
Fishing Line	500+ years
Glass Bottle	1 million years

# Drive smart. Protect the environment. Save money.

- **Choose wisely.** Before buying, leasing or renting a vehicle, check out the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Green Vehicle Guide" ([www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/)) as well as the EPA's and U.S. Department of Energy's Fuel Economy Guide ([www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)) for information about the emissions and fuel efficiency of different vehicles.
- **Give your car a break.** Drive less. Use public transit, share rides, ride your bike or walk when possible.
- **Start right.** Don't idle your engine to let it warm up before driving – even on cold mornings. In fact, idling is more damaging to the engine and wastes gasoline.
- **Combine errands into one trip.** Go to your farthest destination first so your engine has a chance to reach its optimal operating temperature. Then make your other stops on the way back.
- **Don't confuse the highway with a speedway.** Improve your mileage about 15 percent by driving at 55 miles per hour (mph) rather than 65 mph. Fuel efficiency usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive more than 60 mph is like paying an additional 30 cents per gallon for gasoline.
- **Don't idle.** Idling burns about a half-mile worth of gasoline every minute. Save gasoline and prevent pollution by turning off your engine and restarting it if you expect to idle more than 30 seconds.
- **Avoid stop-and-go driving.** When possible, plan trips outside rush hour and peak traffic periods. Maintain a steady speed when possible. Drive smoothly – accelerate and decelerate gradually. Use the cruise control on the highway.
- **Travel light.** Remove unnecessary items from your trunk to reduce weight and improve fuel efficiency.
- **Stay cool.** Use your air conditioning only when necessary. Using the air conditioner can increase emissions and decrease fuel economy. Open the windows or the air vent to keep your car cooler. Also, park in the shade if you can.
- **Don't "top off."** Gasoline pumps automatically shut off when your tank is full. Visit [www.epa.gov/donttopoff](http://www.epa.gov/donttopoff) for more information.
- **Don't be "fuelish."** When filling up your car's tank, avoid spilling gasoline. Replace the gasoline cap tightly. When the weather is warm, try to refuel early in the morning or late in the evening.
- **Tune your ride.** Keep your engine properly tuned. Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune can improve fuel efficiency by an average of 4 percent.
- **Check and replace air filters regularly.** The car's air filter keeps impurities from damaging the engine. Not only will replacing a dirty air filter protect your engine, it will save gasoline.
- **Keep tires properly inflated.** Check your tire pressure regularly. Underinflation increases tire wear, puts you at risk for an accident, reduces fuel efficiency by around 3 percent and increases greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Use the recommended grade of motor oil (e.g., 10-W-30).** You can improve your car's mileage 1 to 2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil.
- **Change your car's oil regularly.** If you are a do-it-yourselfer who changes your own motor oil, recycle it. It's the law.
- **While you are maintaining your car ...** remember to recycle your antifreeze, batteries, used motor oil, oil filters and oil bottles as well as tires. Don't ignore the check engine or service engine soon lights.



Office of Solid Waste  
Reduction & Recycling  
1-800-768-7348 ● [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle)

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