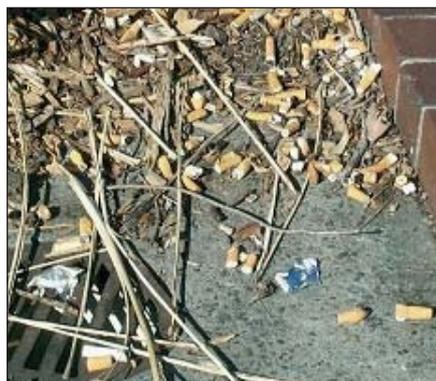


Alarming facts about butt litter

- Around 80% of England’s streets are swamped with cigarette ends, boxes, matches, cellophane and lighters – making cigarette debris our biggest litter problem. (Source: ENCAMS).
- The most frequently cited reason for butts littering is no convenient point of disposal – no bins or not enough bins.
- 200 million cigarette butts are thrown away each day in the UK. (Source: ENCAMS).
- An annual survey of England (LEQSE) monitored 12,000 sites and found over 79% of them strewn with cigarette butts and packets.
- In the UK, cigarettes account for over 40% of street litter. (Source: ENCAMS).
- 122 tons of cigarette butts and cigarette related litter is dropped every day in the UK. (Source: ENCAMS).
- Street cleaning in the UK costs £413m – this is paid for by council taxes.
- Cigarette butts are made of cellulose acetate, which takes up to 12 years to biodegrade.
- Cigarette butts leak toxins that contaminate water and harm marine life and the environment.



- Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures, who mistake them for food.
- As the anti-smoking lobby’s campaign gains momentum, employers are banning smoking from not only indoor areas but outdoor areas too – employees are forced out on to public spaces where the facilities are limited to non-existent.
- A full smoking ban in pubs and clubs is likely to substantially increase the cigarette litter burden.
- In Ireland, 61% of people believe litter from smoking has risen since the Republic introduced a similar ban back in March 2004.
- Cigarette butt litter is a global problem – worldwide, smokers toss at least 4.5 trillion cigarette butts each year. ■

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“Without proper facilities, smokers will turn our streets into a giant ashtray,” said Alan Woods, Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy.

“Cigarette butts, boxes and matches are already our biggest litter problem, blighting 90% of our high streets – so we need to act now and ensure smokers have what they need to dispose of their rubbish correctly.”

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