

Can I Do More?

- Ask the organizers of a festival, fair, or other outdoor event in your community to make it a "litter-free" event. This can be done by giving out litterbags at entrances and making sure that everyone who attends knows that it is a "litter-free" day. Affiliates of Keep America Beautiful have organized litter-free concerts, fairs, and minor-league baseball games.
- Cover open loads on all trucks.
- If you are a contractor, ask your chapter of the National Association of Home Builders about the "Build America Beautiful" program.
- Encourage a school to start a "clean campus" program. This could include placement of trash receptacles, litter pick-ups, and projects in which students track litter's origins.
- Ask marina operators if your Boy or Girl Scout troop or civic group can pass out litterbags to boaters. Public boat ramps are also good spots to give away litterbags.



**CITY OF BEAUMONT
CLEAN COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT
Neighborhood Services
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Keep America Beautiful, Inc. is a national, non-profit public education organization with local affiliates, dedicated to improving waste handling practices in American communities.



PREVENTING LITTER

 **Tips from Keep America Beautiful®**



Knowing more about litter is the first step to a cleaner community

When was the last time you saw someone littering? It may be hard to remember. But litter just doesn't appear – it's the result of careless attitudes and waste handling. Is there anything you can do? Knowing more about litter and where it comes from is a good place to start.

Why People Litter

Research by Keep America Beautiful, Inc. found that people litter because:

- they feel no sense of ownership, even though areas such as parks and beaches are public property.
- they believe someone else – a park maintenance or highway worker – will pick up after them.
- litter has already accumulated.

"Litter-known" Facts

Motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for litter. There are actually seven primary sources:

- household trash handling and its placement at the curb for collection.
- dumpsters used by businesses.

- loading docks.
- construction and demolition sites.
- trucks with uncovered loads.
- pedestrians
- motorists

Litter is blown about by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building, or fence. Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to add more.



Litter and Your Taxes

Litter is a costly problem. Highway departments spend millions of tax dollars and many hours annually picking up litter – money and time needed for more important services. Local, state, and federal governments also spend money removing litter left by careless park visitors.

Clean communities also have a better chance of attracting new businesses than those where litter is common.

What Can I Do?

- Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
- Carry a litterbag in your car.
- Make sure trash cans have lids that can be securely fastened. If you have curbside trash collection, don't put out loose trash in boxes.
- Tie papers in a bundle before placing them in a curbside recycling bin.
- If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to see that top and side doors are closed.
- If you or a member of your family is involved in a civic group, scouting, or recreational sports program, encourage the group to "adopt" a spot in your town and maintain it on a regular basis.
- Make litterbags for your bicycle, and give them to your friends, too.
- Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage and debris to your local highway, public works, or conservation office, and ask that the material be removed. Volunteer to help organize a cleanup.

