



GoMDOT.com/DontTrashMS



WHAT IS LITTER?

HOW MUCH LITTER IS THERE?

According to a study conducted in 2020 by Keep America Beautiful, an estimated 50 billion pieces of litter can be found along U.S. roadways and waterways. For many, that is an unfathomable number. When accounting for the U.S. population, 50 billion pieces of litter equate to 152 pieces of litter for every U.S. resident.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LITTER ON ROADWAYS?

Litter affects the entire state, and it's everyone's responsibility to keep Mississippi litter free. Litter is not only unsightly, it negatively affects the environment, property values, tourism and economic development efforts. Plus, it costs millions each year to clean up. Each Mississippian should do their part to prevent and reduce litter on state highways.



MISSISSIPPI LITTER FACTS:

- Mississippi has a serious problem with litter rates along rural roads, which is 30% higher than the average of other states.
- Accidental litter from open bed vehicles and trash can spills comprises 38% of Mississippi's litter.

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HOW LONG DOES TRASH LAST?

PAPER
2-5 Months



APPLE CORE
6 Months



CIGARETTE BUTT
10-12 Years



TIN CAN
80-100 Years



ALUMINUM CAN
200-500 Years



PLASTIC BOTTLE
450-1,000 years



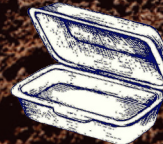
PLASTIC BAGS
450-1,000 years



GLASS
Forever



STYROFOAM
Forever



EVERY YEAR, MISSISSIPPI SPENDS MORE THAN \$3.2 MILLION PICKING UP LITTER ON STATE HIGHWAYS.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT LITTER?

- Set an example for others by using trash cans.
- Make sure trash cans have lids that securely fasten or use something to hold them in place.
- Secure all bags and loose trash for curbside trash collection.
- Always have a litter bag and portable ashtray available in your vehicle.
- Secure your load if you are hauling trash in a vehicle.
- Keep beds of pickup trucks trash-free to avoid blowing out litter on roadways.

Never throw anything from your vehicle.

SECURE YOUR LOAD

When using any vehicle or trailer to haul material, take a few minutes to secure the load.

WHY SHOULD I SECURE MY LOAD?

- To PREVENT accidents
- To PROTECT lives
- To PREVENT litter
- To PREVENT loss or damage to your property

TIPS FOR SECURING LOAD:

- Tie down items with rope, bungee cords or adjustable straps.
- Tie large items directly to the vehicle or trailer.
- Cover your load with a sturdy, reinforced plastic or canvas tarp.
- Make sure brush and debris are not overhanging the vehicle/trailer or dragging on road.
- Put light weight items at the bottom of the load.
- Don't overload; keep material level with the top of truck bed or trailer.
- Always double check your load and be aware of it while driving.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

MDOT offers educational programs aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of litter.

GRADES K-5 MYRTLE THE TURTLE

MDOT's "Myrtle the Turtle" program targets school age children, grades K-5. Included in the 30-minute presentation is an eight-minute animated video that depicts Myrtle's world. Myrtle considers all of Mississippi her home and encourages children to take responsibility to keep their home, Mississippi, clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. The program includes a variety of student and teacher resources, such as:



- 30-minute presentation for grades K-5, presented by MDOT Litter Prevention Coordinator
- Animated Myrtle the Turtle video
- Reinforcement materials, including: MDOT Litter Patrol Badges, MDOT children's coloring book, bookmarks and pencils.



GRADES 6-12

This program includes a Power Point presentation on stormwater prevention education, information on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, decomposition, how long trash lasts and an in-depth discussion on recycling and its benefits. With a broad range of information, the program can be tailored to engage students of all ages. The presentation can also be done without a Power Point if necessary. Reinforcement materials are provided to encourage students to remember and practice the Don't Trash Mississippi narrative outside of the classroom.

ENVIROSCAPE



The EnviroScape Watershed Education Model provides an interactive, hands-on demonstration of the sources and effect of water pollution. The model demonstrates how stormwater runoff carries

pollutants through the watershed to ponds, lakes, rivers, bays and oceans. The model also shows how management practices help prevent runoff pollution. The EnviroScape is appropriate for all ages, including adults, in groups no larger than 25.

TRASH BASH

Trash Bash is an annual event in which MDOT employees volunteer to pick up litter from highways across the state to raise awareness about the devastating effects of litter.



Trash Bash is MDOT's contribution to the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup, which is held annually. Each year hundreds of MDOT employees volunteer to pick up litter from state highways in an effort to raise awareness and to keep our state beautiful. If we all work together, we can make a difference.

MDOT partners with Keep Mississippi Beautiful, state affiliate under Keep America Beautiful, Inc. network for Trash Bash events. Keep Mississippi Beautiful aims to prevent litter, encourage recycling and beautify Mississippi communities by providing resources to 50 affiliates in the state. Keep Mississippi Beautiful is available to present programs to local civic organizations, schools and other interested individuals.



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE



For more information, visit www.keeptmsbeautiful.com

Follow @KeepMSBeautiful on Instagram

Like on Facebook at facebook.com/KeepMississippiBeautiful.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Roadside litter removal costs MDOT more than \$3 million annually, and highways are still covered in litter. You can get involved by adopting a section of a state maintained highway and make a commitment to keeping it clean and litter-free.



Who?

- Fraternities and sororities
- Civic organizations
- Church groups
- Scout groups
- Commercial or private enterprises



How do I get involved?

To submit an application for admission into the Adopt-A-Highway Program, contact the MDOT District Litter Prevention Coordinator in your area.

For more information, call your District Office or visit GoMDOT.com and select "Programs," then click "Don't Trash Mississippi."

What's required?

- Provide manpower to pick up litter on both sides of a one to two mile stretch of highway.
- Agree to pick up litter at least four times per year.
- Agree to abide by all MDOT program safety rules and guidelines.

MDOT will:

- Provide official safety vests, gloves, trash bags and "Workers Ahead" traffic safety signs.
- Provide, free of charge, an Adopt-a-Highway sign displaying the name of the adopting group.
- Provide safety rules and guidelines.
- Remove litter bags after pick up at pre-arranged locations.



ADOPT-AN-INTERCHANGE

This beautification program, which includes litter control, mowing and landscaping, was developed by MDOT to enhance community appearance by partnering with municipalities and county governments.

Who?

This program aims to give municipalities and counties the opportunity to beautify interstate interchanges.



How to get involved?

- The municipality or county should contact the District Litter Prevention Coordinator to obtain information about the program.
- The municipality or county will work closely with MDOT District personnel.
- The municipality or county must agree to follow the course of action consistent with accepted MDOT procedures, regulations and safety practices.

What's required?

- Litter must be picked up to ensure the location is clean and attractive.
- The adopting group is responsible for providing equipment and labor necessary for mowing and maintaining the location in a manner that is consistent with MDOT regulations and practices.
- Landscaping plans must be submitted in accordance with MDOT requirements and approved by MDOT personnel. [optional]

INMATE LITTER REMOVAL PROGRAM



MDOT partners with local counties and municipalities to use inmate labor to remove litter from the state's right-of-way. MDOT assists in securing transportation mileage reimbursement, guard salary and when available, a vehicle. Keep Mississippi Beautiful provides trailers for the sheriff's departments for fast removal of bagged litter.

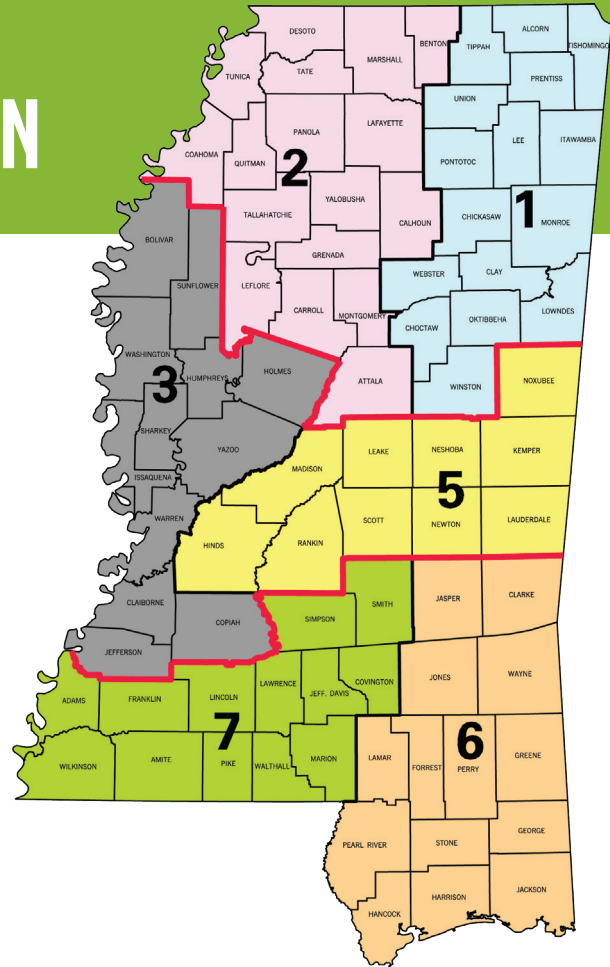


Crews of inmates pick up litter on the state-maintained highway system with a deputy to supervise the work. MDOT furnishes trash bags, safety vests, gloves and advisory signs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Litter Prevention Program:
[601] 359-7111**

District 1: [662] 842-1122
District 2: [662] 563-4541
District 3: [662] 746-2513
District 5: [601] 683-3341
District 6: [601] 544-6511
District 7: [601] 684-2111





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