

You Can Help! Become a Litter Marshal!

- * Keep a bag in your vehicle for garbage until you can dispose of it properly
- * Place litter in trash receptacles
- * Never throw litter in a street or storm drain
- * Pick up litter on and around your property
- * Always pick up after pets

**Keep a pen and paper handy in your car, and if you see somebody littering from a vehicle, write down the license plate, note the location, time, date and the nature of the offense, and call the Bergen County Litter Marshal Hotline:
1-877-CPT-BILL**

The vehicle's owner will be sent a letter of warning from the Sheriff.



Capt. Bill Sheehan
Hackensack Riverkeeper



Sheriff Leo McGuire
Bergen County Sheriff

**“Together, we can
kick litter
to the curb!”**

Litter Myths vs. Facts

MYTH: Littering only occurs when there is no trash can.
FACT: Most Littering occurs within 6 yards of a trash can.

MYTH: Cigarette filters aren't litter and they are biodegradable.
FACT: Cigarette butts are a leading source of litter. They can take up to 100 years to decompose.
FACT: Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures who mistake them for food.

MYTH: Litter doesn't hurt anyone.
FACT: Litter is a breeding ground for fire, rats, and disease-causing bacteria.
FACT: Litter impacts car insurance rates because hundreds of thousands of auto accidents are litter-related.
FACT: Ingesting litter causes injury or death to thousands of pets as well as wildlife and farm animals.

MYTH: Litter is just a visible thing.
FACT: 50% of United States lakes are unfit for swimming and fishing.
FACT: 40% of United States waterways are polluted.
FACT: 35% of United States sewage ends up in marine waters.
FACT: At least a half-million cases of illness annually can be attributed to contaminated drinking water (estimated by US EPA)

Sources: www.GreenEcoServices.com; US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Bergen County Litter Marshal Program is a Joint Project of Hackensack Riverkeeper and the Bergen County Sheriff's Office. Please call 1-877-CPT-BILL for more information.



www.hackensackriverkeeper.org



www.bcsd.us/

Bergen County Litter Marshal Program



**Candy Wrapper
here,
Cigarette Butt
there...**

**WHAT'S
THE BIG
DEAL?**

LITTER IS A BIG DEAL!



**Because...
LITTER ADDS UP,
and when it rains, all
that litter washes off
the land and into
storm drains to the
lowest point - the river
(your drinking water!).**

**Litter harms people, wildlife and the well-being of our community.
But it's a problem we can solve... with your help.**

**Hackensack Riverkeeper and the Bergen County Sheriff
have joined forces to prevent litter in our streets,
towns and waterways. Can we count you in?**

First, the facts about litter:

What is litter?

Litter is solid waste that contaminates our roads, parks, waterways, school yards and local communities. It takes many forms:

Cigarette butts

Paper

Plastics

Metal Cans

Glass

Food Wrappers

Tires

Graffiti

Pet Waste

Where does litter come from?

There are many sources of litter: pedestrians, motorists, overflowing household garbage, loading docks, marinas and construction sites with inadequate waste receptacles, and improperly covered or uncovered trucks.

Why do people litter?

People tend to litter when they think someone else will clean up, when an area is already littered, and when they do not feel a sense of ownership or community pride. Some litter is intentional and some is not.

Why litter matters:

Even small amounts of litter add up quickly. As a result:

* **Litter is unhealthy.** It can cause disease, start fires, and lead to serious accidents. And because litter is often blown by the wind or washed into storm drains by the rain, much of it ends up in our waterways, clogging storm drains, causing floods and compromising our water quality.

* **Litter is expensive.** Lower property values are just the start. It takes huge sums of money to clean up our highways, parks, school grounds and lake fronts - money that could be spent on schools, parks, community projects, helping business and creating jobs.

* **Litter is unsightly.** Not only does litter look bad, it creates a negative impression on visitors, discourages tourism, and even makes neighborhoods less safe for children and adults.

* **Litter is a crime.** There are five (?) laws in Bergen County that prohibit litter on public and private property. Violation of those laws can result in a civil fine up to \$500 and/or community service. Avoiding these penalties is easy: don't litter!