

Facts and figures

- smoking-related litter includes items such as cigarette ends/butts, matches, matchboxes and discarded cigarette and hand-rolling tobacco packaging
 - 122 tons of cigarette butts, matches and tobacco packaging are estimated to be littered each day throughout the UK
 - smoking-related litter was found on just over half of all streets, and almost 75% of streets in towns and cities, during a recent Scottish survey, making it the most common type of litter found on Scotland's streets
 - it costs around £34 million each year to clear up smoking-related litter in Scotland
 - research by Keep Britain Tidy suggests **that the majority of smokers don't** even consider cigarette butts to be litter, dropping them subconsciously
 - dropping cigarette ends is littering and is a criminal offence. It can result in an £80 penalty notice; failure to pay this may result in prosecution and risks a fine of up to £2,500
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Environmental impacts

- cigarette butts leak toxic chemicals which can contaminate water, harm marine life and the environment
 - cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a type of plastic, and are not biodegradable
 - cigarette filters can take many years to decompose
 - cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures, who have mistaken them for food
 - discarded cigarette ends which are not properly extinguished can cause fires
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Further information

- visit www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/cleanupscotland to find out about the Clean Up Scotland campaign, working to make Scotland the cleanest country in Europe
- need help to stop smoking? Call Smokeline free on 0800 84 84 84 7 days a week: 8am - 10pm or visit www.canstopsmoking.com/