

Keeping California Golden

What is Tobacco Product Waste?

Tobacco Product Waste (TPW) is the trash and pollution associated with discarded and used tobacco products. Every year, up to 4.5 trillion cigarette filters litter our world.¹ Volunteers picked up almost 200,000 cigarette butts from California beaches and waterways in only one day as part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup (2020).²



23%

**of the total litter
collected in California
is cigarette filters**

Litter

- Cigarette filters are made of a type of plastic that breaks apart into tiny particles, called microplastics, that stay in soil and water for many years.³ Cigarette filters are the #1 trash item found on beaches and roadsides, making up 23% of the total litter collected in California.²
- Many e-cigarette makers tell users to take their empty devices to hazardous waste/electronic waste disposal facilities, but these places often don't accept e-cigarettes because they are too difficult to recycle.⁴



Economic Impacts

- Large California cities spend between **\$7.1 million** (San Francisco) and **\$19.7 million** (Los Angeles) on tobacco waste cleanup every year.⁵

" Cigarette filters are the #1 trash item found on beaches and roadsides. "

Fire Danger

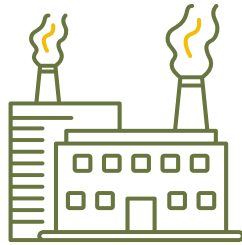
- Cigarette filters and e-cigarettes have been linked to costly, destructive fires and wildfires which threaten both wildlife and communities.⁷
- Fires caused by the lithium-ion batteries in e-cigarettes have become so common that hazardous waste facilities' insurance costs have skyrocketed.⁸



- **Every year, about 1 in 20 house fires are caused by smoking** and 1 in 4 home fire deaths are linked to tobacco products. Smoking materials cause about 560 deaths per year in the U.S.⁹

Toxins

- **813,925 pounds of toxic chemicals** were released from U.S. tobacco facilities in 2018.¹⁰
- Cigarette filters may release toxins such as nicotine, formaldehyde, acetone, and benzene into the environment as well as heavy metals including arsenic, lead, and cadmium.¹¹
- Children, pets, and wildlife may be poisoned if they eat littered cigarette butts and nicotine-containing e-liquid.
- Chemicals found in tobacco waste pollute water systems and are toxic to fish and other aquatic life.¹²



" California agencies spend over \$41 million each year on tobacco waste cleanup. "⁶

Californians deserve clean air and water, and vibrant communities.

We can get there by holding the tobacco industry to the same standards as everyone else.

Visit UNDO.org to learn more and get involved.

References

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