

LITTER LAW FACTS

Litter, graffiti, and unkempt streets...

Far more than just unsightly, these are symptoms of uncaring behavior and can affect a community's quality of life. You can make a difference.

Litter Problems

- Litter isn't natural. It's an illegal and preventable problem that hurts innocent people and wildlife.
- Twenty-Five million dollars is spent each year removing litter according to Virginia Department of Transportation estimates.
- Litter discourages economic development.
- Garbage can attract flies.
- Littered items often end up in our waterways.
- Litter causes accidents and injuries to people.
- Animals are strangled by litter each year.
- Litter is a breeding ground for rats, rodents, and insects, which carry disease-causing bacteria and viruses.
- Tossed lighted cigarettes can contribute to fires.



Law Enforcement

VIRGINIA CODE:

§ 33.1-346. Dumping trash, companion animals, etc., on highway, right-of-way or private property; penalty.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to dump or otherwise dispose of trash, garbage, refuse, litter, a companion animal for the purpose of disposal, or other unsightly matter, on public property, including a public highway, right-of-way, property adjacent to such highway or right-of-way, or on private property without the written consent of the owner thereof or his agent.

B. When any person is arrested for a violation of this section, and the matter alleged to have been illegally dumped or disposed of has been ejected from a motor vehicle or transported to the disposal site in a motor vehicle, the arresting officer may comply with the provisions of § 46.2-936 in making such arrest. When a violation of the provisions of this section has been observed by any person, and the matter illegally dumped or disposed of has been ejected or removed from a motor vehicle, the owner or operator of such motor vehicle shall be presumed to be the person ejecting or disposing of such matter. However, such presumption shall be rebuttable by competent evidence.

C. Any person convicted of a violation of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$2,500, either or both. In lieu of the imposition of confinement in jail, the court may order the defendant to perform community service in litter abatement activities.

D. The governing bodies of counties, cities and towns are hereby authorized to adopt ordinances not in conflict with the provisions of this section, and may repeal, amend or modify such ordinances.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the lawful disposal of such matter in landfills.

Local Litter Laws

For information about the specific litter laws in your locality log onto HR CLEAN - www.hrclean.org or call (757) 420-8300.



www.hrclean.org

HAMPTON ROADS
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION



Broken Window Theory

According to the "Broken Window Theory," authored by Dr. George Kelling, a broken window left unrepaired in a building sends a signal that there is a lack of concern about the building. A broken window, left untended, leads to more broken windows.

Similarly, one of the "Rules of Littering" formulated by Keep America Beautiful, Inc. (KAB) states, **Litter attracts litter.**

Broken windows, unrepaired buildings, and litter are not just eyesores. They can also lead to crime. When neglect and apathy take root in a neighborhood and residents see that vandalism is being ignored, they begin to tolerate other negative activities as acceptable behaviors. Unsightly neighborhood conditions can lead to the breakdown of community organization and stability.

Find more information about the "Broken Window Theory" at www.hrclean.org

What is HR CLEAN?

HR CLEAN, the recycling and litter prevention education program of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), is a regional coalition of local and regional clean community, recycling, and environmental education coordinators who promote litter prevention, recycling, community beautification, and general environmental awareness through educational projects designed to reach all sectors of our communities.



www.hrclean.org

