



National Litter Index 0910
Summary by Keep Australia Beautiful National Association

Overview

The National Litter Index is Australia's only national, annual, quantitative measure of what litter occurs where and in what volume based on counts taken twice a year at 1,059 sites across Australia representing 9 site types. (Prior to 09/10 there were 983 sites and 8 site type. From 09/10 with inclusion of 84 new rural highway sites there are 1,067 sites and 9 site types)

It is understood that the National Litter Index is a count undertaken by researchers, they count but do not tidy up. The count is taken at the same site each March and November. The cleaning regimes of individual sites are not known. It is possible that litter accumulates between visits

The National Litter Index provides results for each state and territory that can then be compared with the national average. The current National Litter Index has been conducted since 05/06. It was previously conducted until 1995.

It is an information resource for use by community, by business and by all levels of government when designing, implementing and evaluating litter reduction projects.

The research is jointly funded by government and by business. The government half is funded by all state and territory governments. The business half is funded by the National Packaging Covenant Industry Association.

See the separate contents page for a list of the items that make up the report and related commentary.

All Litter

	Items per 1,000m ²					Volume (litres) per 1,000m ²				
	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
NATIONAL	70	74	68	63	66	8.86	9.68	8.59	7.73	7.55
ACT	-	68	56	56	51	-	7.04	6.06	4.77	3.31
NSW	80	71	77	65	75	14.95	14.69	11.90	12.13	13.43
NT	-	64	60	84	70	-	5.32	7.24	6.00	5.09
QLD	89	86	76	59	76	7.66	7.59	7.44	5.60	5.65
SA	60	61	68	57	54	7.23	11.08	9.55	8.02	7.13
TAS	59	70	61	64	86	5.15	6.68	5.90	9.20	9.04
VIC	71	80	48	43	50	7.87	7.74	4.19	2.87	4.91
WA	60	83	85	87	71	8.57	12.19	13.06	11.93	9.44

Comparing national results for 0809 with 0910 there was a marginal increase in the number of items (from 63 to 66 per 1,000sqm) and a marginal decrease in volume (from 7.73 to 7.55 litres per 1,000sqm).

Four jurisdictions had a rise in the number of items, four had a drop.

Three had a rise in volume, five had a drop.

Litter by site type

The eight site types are: Beaches, Car Parks, Highways, Industrial, Recreational Parks, Residential, Retail, Shopping Centres

The most littered sites were

- retail sites: large number, small volume
- industrial locations: large number, large volume
- highway sites: small number, large volume

Litter by material

The main material types are: cigarette butts, glass, illegal dumping, metal, miscellaneous, paper/paperboard, plastic.

Litter count by material:

-cigarette butts continue to be the most numerous form of litter.

Litter volume by material:

-plastic litter objects

MAIN MATERIAL TYPE	Object Sub-Category
CIGARETTE BUTTS	Total
GLASS	Alcoholic beverage container Non-alcoholic beverage container Plain water container Other
ILLEGAL DUMPING	Total
METAL	Alcoholic beverage container Food container or utensil Non-alcoholic beverage container Plain water container Other
MISCELLANEOUS	Total
PAPER/ PAPERBOARD	Cigarette packets Food container or utensil Non-alcoholic beverage container Publication Other
PLASTIC	Alcoholic beverage container Food container or utensil Non-alcoholic beverage container Plain water container Shopping bag Other

Dirty Dozen by Litter Count

Cigarette Butts – total
Paper/Paperboard – other
Plastic – other
Plastic – food container or utensil
Metal – other
Miscellaneous – total
Paper/Paperboard – food container or utensil
Glass – other
Plastic – non-alcoholic beverage container
Paper/Paperboard – cigarette packets
Paper/Paperboard – Publication
Metal – non alcoholic beverage container

Dirty Dozen by Litter Volume

Illegal Dumping – total
Plastic - other
Paper/Paperboard – food container or utensil
Plastic – non-alcoholic beverage container
Plastic – alcoholic beverage container
Glass – alcoholic beverage container
Metal – non alcoholic beverage container
Metal – alcoholic beverage container
Paper/Paperboard – non alcoholic beverage container
Plastic – plain water container
Paper/Paperboard - other
Plastic – food container or utensil

NLI 0910:

National Litter Index

- following a consistent format since 2005
- see summary above

Additional Regional Highway Sites

- added to make the results more representative across the larger states
- note: SA, NT, TAS have 8 additional sites, NSW, QLD, VIC, WA have 15, ACT is considered urban and so was not included in additional regional highway sites
- SA and VIC had the lowest number of litter items
- Plastic litter objects contributed the largest number of items (9.4 items per 1,000m²) and amount of volume (3.01 litres per 1,000m²) to the litter stream among rural highway sites nationally.

Packaging Litter

- this report allows for a closer focus on packaging in litter by taking out non packaging items such as cigarette butts, newspaper items, miscellaneous items and illegal dumping
- Industrial locations were associated with the largest number of packaging items and packaging volume per 1,000m² in the litter stream.

Illegal Dumping

- an appendix that allows the NSW Govt to look at litter, not including illegal dumping, and compare it with the national average.
- national average of items was 66 and of volume was 5.70 litres
- NSW average of items was 75 and of volume was 7.96 litres

Litter Research Reference List

- a list of available litter research from around the world and around the country.

Information for all stakeholders

The NLI 0910 provides information able to be used by a wide cross section of stakeholders.

The report and appendices provide information on:

- all litter including illegal dumping
- rural highway litter
- packaging litter
- litter not including illegal dumping (NSW and National)
- reference list of litter research across the world and across Australia

The tables allow information to be extracted on

- cigarette butt litter
- beverage container litter
- litter by material type
- litter by location
- litter by count
- litter by volume

Also see Branded Litter Study 0708 for information on brands in the litter stream.

Additional research and analysis, contact:

-Scott Lyall, Executive Officer,
Keep Australia Beautiful National Association, 02 9698 8773

-David O'Dea, Senior Project Manager,
McGregor Tan Research, 08 8433 0200.