

## Why We Shouldn't Litter

By Rio

Do you ever see trash whenever you're going on a walk or driving somewhere? Whenever I would travel somewhere, I would see trash everywhere like on the sides of the roads, near a river, or somewhere in a forest. Whenever I come home from school and get off the bus I usually see trash in the driveway and near the river. Or whenever we go camping I see trash in the forest or just somewhere on the ground somewhere.

First off, trash affects the environment a lot and there are about 268 million tons of trash thrown a year, this is causing air pollution, water and soil contamination. The trash can also get in the water, and the rivers, eventually the trash could go into the ocean. Trash getting into the ocean can lead to the trash going deeper into the ocean or getting on the beaches. There have been over 1 million marine animal deaths and over 100,000 deaths a year just because of garbage being put into the ocean.

Second, I think that more people should help pick up trash everywhere like for example next to the roads, in the water, or on beaches. About 13 million tons of trash gets put into the ocean each year. If more trash gets put into the ocean then there could be injuries and deaths for marine animals like suffocation, starvation, and drowning. All the water would be contaminated for humans, this would cause a problem with our clean water drinking supply.

Next, if people continue to throw trash on the ground the soil will start to get contaminated and the soil will get polluted and all the plants could start to die. People bury trash into the ground saying that it will protect human health and the environment and while bacteria does break down the garbage, Burying things like paper, clothes, plastic, and food is a source of climate damage. Landfills also affect the environment a lot because of all the trash that is getting buried into the ground and making the soil contaminated and could harm smaller animals that can go into the ground.

Leaving trash around also hurts land animals like getting the animals caught in plastic can starve or choke on the trash and can end up killing the animal. They can also get caught in the trash and could kill them if they can't escape. Trash could also affect the

human and animal environment and can kill plants. If the plants are killed then neither humans or animals will be able to eat as much.

Trash could affect humans a lot like contaminating the water, air pollution and soil contamination. With all the water contaminated, we won't be able to have any water to drink and no plants will be able to grow properly. With all the trash affecting the air, we won't be able to breath well and the air will have lots of chemicals in it. Those chemicals can also make us feel sick and could give us cancer, irritate our lungs, heart attacks or strokes. The next time you have trash, wait to dispose of it correctly, and when you see trash stop and clean it up.

#### Sources

<https://www.unep.org>

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

<https://www.guilfordcountync.gov>

<https://a816-dohbsp.nyc.gov>

<https://www.google.com>