

LITTER REPORT FY24 VIC

During the financial year of 2024, Clean Up Australia volunteers continued to unite against litter by taking to their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to Clean Up.

While over a million joined us last year across 16,320 sites, the Litter Report FY24 is a snapshot of litter removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers across a portion of these sites during Clean Up Australia Day and Every Day Clean Ups. Across Victoria, the Report is based on the count of 109,214 litter items from 304 surveyed locations (112,576 items from 305 locations in FY23).

VIC SITES REGISTERED:

3,939 (4,225 in FY23)

VIC ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

221,122 (204,835 in FY23)

VIC ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

442,244 (409,670 in FY23)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastic	38,421	35.2%	-7.7%
All Other Plastic	27,048	24.8%	4.6%
Hard Plastic	21,237	19.4%	-0.3%
Metal	8,895	8.1%	0.5%
Paper/Cardboard	5,548	5.1%	0.7%
Glass	4,408	4.0%	0.6%
Miscellaneous	1,795	1.6%	1.0%
Rubber	720	0.7%	0.3%
E-Waste	613	0.6%	0.1%
Wood	529	0.5%	0.1%

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM FY23

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
All Other Plastics 4.6%	Soft Plastic 7.7%	Hard Plastic
Miscellaneous 1.0%		Metal
Paper/Cardboard 0.7%		Rubber
Glass 0.6%		E-Waste
		Wood

TOP 10 GROUPED ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Grouped Items	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastics	38,421	35.2%	-7.7%
Non-Food Packaging	30,087	27.5%	3.5%
Beverage Containers	17,755	16.3%	0.3%
Food Packaging	12,661	11.6%	1.8%
Household Items	4,829	4.4%	2.4%
Beverage Litter	2,908	2.7%	-0.1%
Sanitary Items	423	0.4%	-0.4%
Construction Materials	675	0.6%	0.1%
E-Waste	613	0.6%	0.1%
Clothing	343	0.3%	0.0%

NOTABLE CHANGES

The order of the top 10 grouped items has changed little since last year's survey with soft plastics, non-food packaging including cigarette butts and beverage containers leading counts. Soft plastics remain in first place but with a reduction of 7.7%. Proportionally they are reported in higher levels than the national average by 3.4%. Non-food packaging remains in second place with an increase of 3.5%.

With Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in place since November 2023, it will be interesting to note whether beverage container litter levels begin to decrease in future.

Household items moved from sixth to fifth place with an increase of 2.4% and beverage litter moved from fifth to sixth place.

All other items show minimal percentage changes over FY23.

TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Individual Items	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastics – packets, wrappers	31,173	28.5%	-14.0%
Cigarette Butts	21,422	19.6%	2.0%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	7,064	6.5%	0.1%
Plastic Bags - food, retail, garbage	6,821	6.2%	5.8%
Plastic Beverage Bottles	6,376	5.8%	-0.7%
Plastic Food Containers & Utensils	4,149	3.8%	0.2%
Glass Beverage Bottles	3,320	3.0%	0.5%
Takeaway Coffee Cups	3,286	3.0%	0.3%
Plastic Fragments > 5mm	2,762	2.5%	1.0%
Nurdles/Microplastics < 5mm	2,132	2.0%	2.0%

NOTABLE CHANGES

The top three individual items remain the same from FY23 with soft plastics the most reported item, followed by cigarette butts and aluminium beverage cans. Nevertheless, there was a significant reduction in the number of soft plastics reported which decreased by 14.0%. Soft plastic packets and wrappers in Victoria are still reported in higher levels proportionally than the national average by 3.9%.

Plastic bags found as litter have increased by 5.8% since FY23, despite lightweight plastic bags banned in Victoria since 2019. As in many other states, soft plastics remain the most collected litter item indicating a need for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme nationwide.

Plastic bags and microplastics have moved into the top 10 individual items taking over from straws and polystyrene packaging. The other items remain largely consistent with FY23 reporting.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

VIC	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Park	105	26.3%
Beach/Coastal Area	34	23.3%
Roadside	42	16.0%
Public Bushland	20	12.2%
River/Creek	37	8.4%
Footpath	27	5.8%
School Grounds/Campus	18	3.6%
Other	9	2.4%
National Park	4	1.0%
Shops/Malls	6	0.9%
Outdoor Public Transport	2	0.1%