

LITTER REPORT FY24 WA

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 WA, the Report is based on the count of 28,339 litter items from 112 surveyed locations (29,480 items from 112 locations in FY23).

WA SITES REGISTERED:

1,514 (1,637 in FY23)

WA ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

95,852 (131,363 in FY23)

WA ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

191,704 (262,726 in FY23)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastic	8,516	30.1%	-0.8%
All Other Plastic	6,525	23.0%	1.6%
Hard Plastic	6,119	21.6%	-1.9%
Paper/Cardboard	2,239	7.9%	-0.5%
Metal	2,090	7.4%	0.6%
Glass	1,377	4.9%	-0.2%
Miscellaneous	915	3.2%	0.7%
Rubber	320	1.1%	0.7%
E-Waste	169	0.6%	-0.2%
Wood	69	0.2%	-0.1%

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM FY23

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
All Other Plastic 1.6%	Soft Plastic 0.8%	Paper/Cardboard
Metal 0.6%	Hard Plastic 1.9%	Glass
Miscellaneous 0.7%		E-Waste
Rubber 0.7%		Wood

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

Grouped Items	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Non-Food Packaging	8,810	31.1%	-0.3%
Soft Plastic	8,516	30.1%	-0.8%
Beverage Containers	3,514	12.4%	0.7%
Food Packaging	3,051	10.8%	-1.5%
Household Items	2,365	8.3%	3.7%
Beverage Litter	870	3.1%	-0.5%
Clothing	487	1.7%	0.6%
Construction Materials	295	1.0%	-0.8%
E-Waste	169	0.6%	-0.2%
Sanitary Items	117	0.4%	-0.8%

NOTABLE CHANGES

The top 10 grouped items for FY24 remain largely consistent with FY23. Non-food packaging and soft plastics remain in the first two places, both decreasing slightly. Non-food packaging counts include cigarette butts which as indicated in the individual items list were reported in high numbers. Non-food packaging further includes plastic fragments, bags and boxes. WA, Tasmania and NSW are the only states reporting higher levels of non-food packaging than soft plastics.

Beverage containers moved to third place, overtaking food packaging which saw a decrease of 1.5%, consistent with bans on plastic food packaging in WA rolled out incrementally since 2022.

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	6,495	22.9%	-8.1%
Cigarette Butts	5,304	18.7%	-1.0%
Plastic Fragments > 5mm	2,152	7.6%	5.3%
Plastic bags – food, retail, garbage	1,975	7.0%	6.6%
Paper Items	1,533	5.4%	-0.9%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	1,306	4.6%	0.2%
Plastic Beverage Bottles	1,051	3.7%	-1.6%
Plastic Food Containers & Utensils	995	3.5%	-0.9%
Glass Beverage Bottles	911	3.2%	1.6%
Takeaway Coffee Cups	760	2.7%	-0.5%

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are several changes in the order of items from FY23 to FY24. Soft plastics and cigarette butts remain in first and second place respectively with plastic beverage bottles moving down to seventh place from third, with a decrease of 1.6%. Reported levels of soft plastics packets and wrappers and cigarette butts are proportionally between 1-2% lower than national levels.

Plastic food containers decreased slightly with glass pieces and straws moving out of the top 10 items to make way for paper items and plastic bags. The reduction in straws and plastic food takeaway containers as a percentage of all litter reported may reflect bans on plastic straws and unlined plastic takeaway containers which came into effect in WA in July 2023. From September 2024, WA's single-use plastic bans were extended to include produce bags for loose fresh fruit and vegetables and lidded plastic containers, plates, bowls and trays. It will be interesting to note whether these bans are reflected in future litter counts.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

WA	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Beach/Coastal Area	24	32.6%
Park	25	22.4%
River/Creek	15	15.8%
Public Bushland	14	8.7%
School Grounds/Campus	14	7.5%
Roadside	7	6.6%
Footpath	10	4.0%
Outdoor Public Transport	1	1.6%
Shops/Malls	2	0.7%