

Educational Resource

Impacts of littering

Here are some suggested economic, environmental and social hazards and impacts of littering. This is not a complete list, but is designed to give you some initial ideas.

Economic hazards and impacts	Environmental hazards and impacts	Social hazards and impacts
Block waterways/drain pipes	Strangulation/suffocation to animals	Injury to people caused by broken glass hazards
Leaching into waterways	Could be a choking hazard and eaten by animals	Social wellbeing
Cost to councils for cleanup	Damage to ecosystem/ biodiversity	Community and council spend time picking up litter
Cost to restore the environment	Can lead to death of animals	Negative impact on aesthetics
Litter entrapment	Physical damage/pollution to habitats	Inability to access facilities (e.g. unable to swim in polluted waterways)
Cost of litter disposal	Block waterways/drain pipes	Lack of community pride in areas