

Storm Water Matters

Cigarette Butts = Litter

Cigarette butts are one of the most commonly littered items in the world. Cigarette butts discarded on parking lots, sidewalks, and roadways can reach Maui's waterways through water runoff into storm drains. Maui recognizes the importance of cigarette butt litter prevention and passed Bill 24, banning tobacco use at parks, beaches, and recreational facilities. Bill 24 was passed on Earth Day 2014 with many public testimonies expressing the need to protect shorelines.

Flick It & Get a Ticket!

Maui County Code 13.04.020 prohibits use of tobacco products within county park limits or recreational facilities. Maui police officers and park security officers may issue citations or warnings for violations. Penalties can range from \$150 to \$500.

Today, 95% of cigarette filters are made of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that remains in the environment for 10 to 25 years. Cigarette butts contain harmful toxins that can leach into the environment and negatively impact marine life if ingested. Improper disposal of cigarette butts also creates a fire hazard.



How Long Until It's Really Gone?

Litter lasts in the ocean for a long time. For example, fishing line debris can take up to 600 years to disintegrate, and it can choke and entangle wildlife. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration estimated rates of decomposition for commonly littered items; don't let these items wash away!



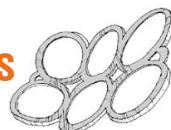
2 months

50 years



250 years

400 years



450 years



How Can You Help?

Preventing litter is much easier than having to deal with it after it has accumulated.



Everyone can prevent litter from going into the ocean by doing simple things:

- Properly dispose of trash: don't litter!!
- Use reusable containers instead of disposable, single-use plastics.
- Choose products with minimal packaging.
- Dispose of cigarette butts responsibly or use a Go Green Pocket Ashtray.
- Make sure balloons are securely fastened; balloons and their strings can create entanglement and choking hazards for birds and wildlife.