



Litter Prevention

Why is litter prevention important?

We're all aware of how beautiful Guilford County is and how that beauty enhances the quality of our everyday lives. It is also vital to our economy, bringing tourists and new businesses to our community. But over the years, our rivers, lakes and roadsides have been increasingly covered with litter. Collapsing buildings, junk cars and other debris have created eyesores and damage to our environment.

Is litter really that harmful?

Litter is unsightly and unsafe for humans and animals. Research overwhelmingly indicates that the presence of litter attracts more litter. A clean community encourages people to keep it that way. Litter reduces property values. Truck drivers occasionally lose debris from the backs of their trucks and often are unaware they are causing a large amount of litter on our roads. Just like when we clean up our house when we have company coming, we need to clean up our county for our visitors.

What can I personally do to help prevent littering?

We can all help raise awareness that littering of any kind is illegal. By partnering with public and private agencies we can work to reduce litter in our county and enhance the natural beauty and quality of our environment. We need to consider what type of environment we want to leave to our children and future generations of Guilford County. Littering is an individual problem and a business problem that has a tremendous negative impact on our community.

- Set an example for others including friends, co-workers and children by using receptacles and not littering.
- Carry a litterbag in your vehicle. Don't throw trash out of the windows.
- If you are a smoker, carry and use a portable or pocket ashtray.
- Make sure your trashcans have lids that can be securely fastened or use cords to hold them in place.
- Secure all bags and use twine to secure loose trash for curbside trash collection.
- Tie paper into bundles before placing into curbside recycling bins.

How can we change years of bad habits?

We must promote pride in our county. We must continue to create partnerships to implement help cleaning up our environment and together figure out ways to keep it that way. Educational outreach, volunteer involvement and consistent enforcement of our laws are essential components to decreasing litter. Join us today in taking responsibility for cleaning up the community we all share, our streets, our parks, our sidewalks and our roadsides.

For more information, call the Guilford County Department of Public Health at 641-7777 or visit the website at www.guilfordhealth.org