



2021 RUBBISH REPORT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The 2021 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across ACT, the Report is based on the count of 4,823 rubbish items from 14 surveyed locations [2,507 items from 25 locations in 2020].

210

**SITES
REGISTERED:**
[146 in 2020]

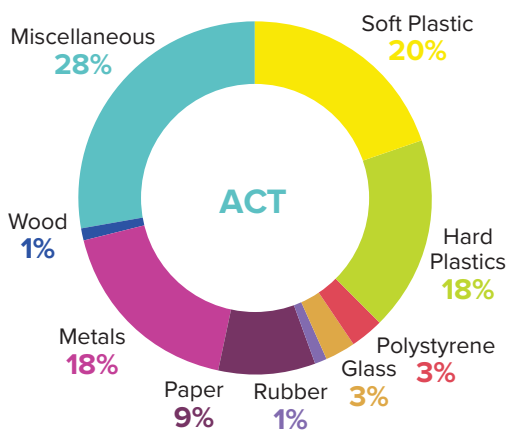
20,759

**ESTIMATED
VOLUNTEERS**
[34,192 in 2020]

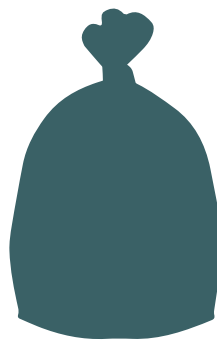
41,518

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS:**
[17,096 in 2020]

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2020



Polystyrene and wood remained on par

**13%↑
SOFT PLASTICS**
(as percentage of rubbish reported)

**4%↑
METALS**

**1%↑
HARD PLASTICS & PAPER**

**6%↓
GLASS** **2%↓
RUBBER**

**9%↓
MISCELLANEOUS**

2021 participation reflects the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer desire to join with their neighbours and friends to clean up their favourite locations.

Despite local lockdowns and restrictions, Australians continued to Step Up to Clean Up with a 25% increase in the number of estimated volunteers across the nation.

This clearly demonstrates the importance volunteers place on our local parks, streets, beaches, waterways and bushland.

TOP 10 RUBBISH ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL RUBBISH SURVEYED

GROUP ITEMS



RANK #1
Non-Food Packaging
36.8%



RANK #2
Soft Plastics
20.1%



RANK #3
Beverage Rubbish
18.3%



RANK #4
Food Packaging
11.3%



RANK #5
Beverage Containers
6.0%



RANK #6
Household Items
2.3%



RANK #7
Construction Materials
1.5%



RANK #8
Sanitary Items
1.4%



RANK #9
Clothing
1.2%



RANK #10
Toys, Sporting Goods, Ropes
0.9%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Top 5 rankings: across grouped and individual items again align with national outcomes.

ACT volunteers reported higher than national %s for non-food packaging, soft plastics and beverage related rubbish within grouped items.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS



RANK #1
Cigarette Butts
25.2%



RANK #2
Bottle Caps
8.8%



RANK #3
Bottle Caps & Lids
7.8%



RANK #4
Food Bags
6.2%



RANK #5
Other Soft Plastics
6.0%



RANK #6
Foil Confectionery Wrappers
5.1%



RANK #7
Plastic Chips & Confectionery
4.9%



RANK #8
Cling Wrap
2.7%



RANK #9
Food Packaging
2%



RANK #10
Polystyrene Packaging
1.6%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Demonstrating small stuff matters, ACT Top 10 individual %s were all small items, reporting higher than national average % counts for cigarette butts, bottle caps, lids, food bags, and confectionery wrappers.

*Grouped Data made up 99.9% [99.5% in 2020] of surveyed rubbish

*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 70.0% [49.9% in 2020]

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

ACT volunteers reported higher than national average rubbish counts across rivers/creeks/waterways, roadsides and shops/malls.

Nationally ACT took the unenviable position of:

#1 average rubbish item in shops/malls

#2 in parks and

#3 in rivers/creeks/waterways



RIVER/CREEK/ WATERWAYS WATER STORAGE

Sites: **2**
Items: **878**
Total waste: **18%**
Average # Items
439

PARKS [INCL NAT PARKS]

Sites: **3**
Items: **1,347**
Total waste: **28%**
Average # Items
449

ROADSIDES

Sites: **2**
Items: **966**
Total waste: **20%**
Average # Items
483



FOOTPATHS

Sites: **2**
Items: **230**
Total waste: **5%**
Average # Items
115

PUBLIC BUSHLAND

Sites: **1**
Items: **32**
Total waste: **1%**
Average # Items
32

SHOPS/MALLS

Sites: **2**
Items: **980**
Total waste: **20%**
Average # Items
490

SCHOOL GROUND

Sites: **2**
Items: **390**
Total waste: **8%**
Average # Items
195



PARTNERS

Founding Partner



Partners



Media Partners



Suppliers