



2021 RUBBISH REPORT VICTORIA

The 2021 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across VIC, the Report is based on the count of 101,525 rubbish items from 197 surveyed locations [59,159 items from 239 locations in 2020].

2,586

**SITES
REGISTERED:**
[1,482 in 2020]

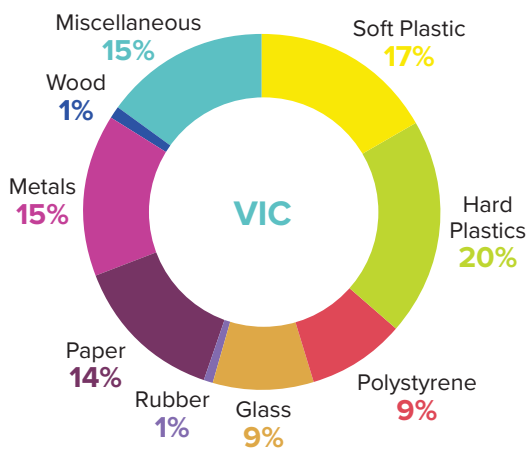
171,792

**ESTIMATED
VOLUNTEERS**
[110,114 in 2020]

343,584

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS:**
[220,228 in 2020]

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2020



Rubber and wood remained on par with 2020

**7%↑
SOFT PLASTICS**
(as percentage of rubbish reported)

**4%↑
POLYSTYRENE
& PAPER**

**9%↓
HARD PLASTICS**

**4%↓
GLASS**

**2%↓
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
31%



RANK #2
Soft
Plastics
17.4%



RANK #3
Beverage
Containers
17.3%



RANK #4
Food
Packaging
12%



RANK #5
Beverage
Rubbish
7.6%



RANK #6
Household
Items
5.1%



RANK #7
Sanitary
Items
3.8%



RANK #8
Construction
Materials
2.9%



RANK #9
Toys, Sporting
Goods, Ropes
1.6%



RANK #10
Clothing
0.8%

NOTABLE CHANGES

VIC is one of the last states to introduce a beverage container deposit/refund scheme, reporting the second highest percentage of beverage containers in the country – 4% higher than the national average and up to 9% higher than other jurisdictions which have an established scheme.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS



RANK #1
Cigarette
Butts
11%



RANK #2
Plastic Chips &
Confectionery
5.6%



RANK #3
Other Soft
Plastics
4.6%



RANK #4
Polystyrene
Pieces
4.3%



RANK #5
Alcoholic
Bottles
3.6%



RANK #6
Bottle Caps
& Lids
3.4%



RANK #7
Food
Bags
3.2%



RANK #8
PET Drink
Containers
3.1%



RANK #9
Napkins
& Tissues
3.1%



RANK #10
Foil Chip &
Confectionery
2.8%

*Grouped Data made up 99.6% [99.5% in 2020] of surveyed rubbish

NOTABLE CHANGES

Vic again recorded higher than national % of alcoholic beverage bottles and also recorded higher than national average % counts for food bags and foil confectionery wrappers.

*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 44.7% [55.9% in 2020]

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

VIC volunteers reported the second highest average counts of rubbish from river systems, parks, beaches, roadsides, footpaths and bushland.



RIVER/CREEK/ WATERWAYS WATER STORAGE

Sites: **32**
Items: **17,901**
Total waste: **18%**
Average # Items
559

PARKS [INCL NAT PARKS]

Sites: **53**
Items: **23,355**
Total waste: **23%**
Average # Items
441

BEACH/COASTAL

Sites: **21**
Items: **12,459**
Total waste: **12%**
Average # Items
593

ROADSIDES

Sites: **32**
Items: **19,690**
Total waste: **19%**
Average # Items
615

FOOTPATHS

Sites: **22**
Items: **16,172**
Total waste: **16%**
Average # Items
735

PUBLIC BUSHLAND

Sites: **18**
Items: **7,261**
Total waste: **7%**
Average # Items
403

SHOPS/MALLS

Sites: **1**
Items: **118**
Total waste: **0%**
Average # Items
118

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Sites: **15**
Items: **4,244**
Total waste: **4%**
Average # Items
283

DIVE SITE

Sites: **1**
Items: **16**
Total waste: **0%**
Average # Items
16

OTHER

Sites: **2**
Items: **309**
Total waste: **0%**
Average # Items
155



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