



2021 RUBBISH REPORT WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The 2021 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across WA, the Report is based on the count of 32,728 rubbish items from 88 surveyed locations [37,033 items from 105 locations in 2020].

1,282

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

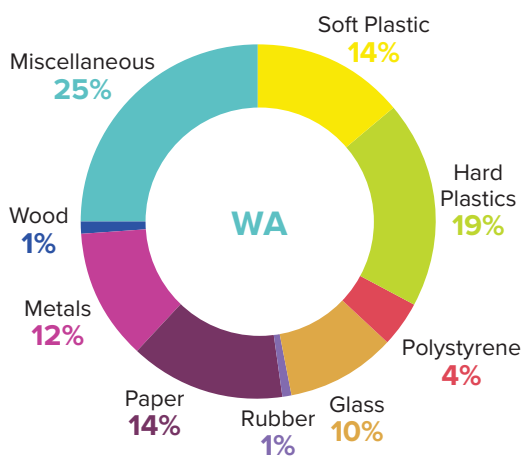
111,406

**ESTIMATED
VOLUNTEERS**
[59,749 in 2020]

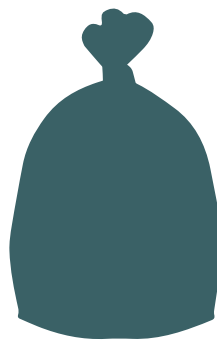
222,812

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS:**
[119,498 in 2020]

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2020



Glass, metals and wood remained on par with 2020

**4%↑
MISCELLANEOUS**
(as percentage of rubbish reported)

**3%↑
PAPER**

**4%↓
HARD PLASTICS**

**1%↓
SOFT PLASTICS & POLYSTYRENE**

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 39.9%	RANK #2 Soft Plastics 13.9%	RANK #3 Beverage Containers 13.1%	RANK #4 Beverage Rubbish 9.1%	RANK #5 Food Packaging 9.1%	RANK #6 Household Items 5.6%	RANK #7 Sanitary Items 3.3%	RANK #8 Construction Materials 2.7%	RANK #9 Toys, Sporting Goods, Ropes 1.7%	RANK #10 Clothing 1.2%

NOTABLE CHANGES	Top 5 grouped items, while in a different order, are consistent with national findings	WA volunteers reported higher than national % of non-food packaging, household and sanitary items.
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INDIVIDUAL ITEMS										
	RANK #1 Cigarette Butts 22.3%	RANK #2 Soft Plastics 6.1%	RANK #3 Plastic Chips & Confectionery 4.7%	RANK #4 Bottle Caps & Lids 4.3%	RANK #5 Alcoholic Bottles 3.6%	RANK #6 Bottle Caps 3.1%	RANK #7 Napkins & Tissues 3.1%	RANK #8 Glass Pieces 3.0%	RANK #9 Small Paper 2.9%	RANK #10 Plastic Packaging 2.9%

*Grouped Data made up 99.8% [99.1% in 2020] of surveyed rubbish

NOTABLE CHANGES	Individual % counts of cigarette butts, other soft plastics, plastic bottle caps & lids, alcoholic beverage bottles, metal bottle caps, and plastic packaging were all above national % recordings.
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*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 56% [51.3% in 2020]

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

WA volunteers recorded the highest average counts of items from rivers/ creeks and waterways; the second highest counts from 'other' sites and the third highest average counts from roadways.



RIVER/CREEK/ WATERWAYS WATER STORAGE

Sites: **12**
Items: **7,304**
Total waste: **22%**
Average # Items
609

PARKS [INCL NAT PARKS]

Sites: **20**
Items: **4,849**
Total waste: **15%**
Average # Items
242

BEACH/COASTAL

Sites: **12**
Items: **5,055**
Total waste: **15%**
Average # Items
421

ROADSIDES

Sites: **12**
Items: **6,281**
Total waste: **19%**
Average # Items
523

FOOTPATHS

Sites: **8**
Items: **2,827**
Total waste: **9%**
Average # Items
353

PUBLIC BUSHLAND

Sites: **13**
Items: **3,307**
Total waste: **10%**
Average # Items
254

SHOPS/MALLS

Sites: **1**
Items: **130**
Total waste: **0%**
Average # Items
130

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Sites: **7**
Items: **2,111**
Total waste: **6%**
Average # Items
302

OUTDOOR TRANSPORT

Sites: **1**
Items: **304**
Total waste: **1%**
Average # Items
304

OTHER

Sites: **2**
Items: **562**
Total waste: **2%**
Average # Items
281



PARTNERS

Founding Partner



Partners



Media Partners



Suppliers