

LITTER REPORT FY23 SA

During the financial year of 2023, Clean Up Australia continued to encourage volunteers across the nation to **Step Up to Clean Up**, by taking to their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to remove accumulated litter.

While over a million joined us last year across 17,139 sites the Litter Report FY23 is a snapshot of litter removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers during Clean Up Australia Day and Every Day Clean Ups across a portion of these sites. Across South Australia, the Report is based on the count of 26,466 items from 100 surveyed locations (22,206 items from 106 locations in 2022).

SA SITES REGISTERED:

1,126 (1,114 in 2022)

SA ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

59,611 (79,349 in 2022)

SA ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

119,222 (158,698 in 2022)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY23 Count	%
Hard Plastics	9,312	35.2%
Soft Plastics	7,673	29.0%
All Other Plastics	3,642	13.8%
Glass	1,970	7.4%
Paper/Cardboard	1,696	6.4%
Metal	1,563	5.9%
Miscellaneous	315	1.2%
E-Waste	112	0.4%
Rubber	107	0.4%
Wood	56	0.2%
	26,446	100.0%

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM 2022

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
Hard Plastics 14.0%	All Other Plastics 13.7%	Rubber
Soft Plastics 8.3%	Glass 5.3%	Wood
	Paper/Cardboard 2.1%	E-Waste
	Metal 0.8%	Miscellaneous

TOP 10 GROUPED ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Grouped Items	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastics	7,673	29.0%
Non-Food Packaging	6,891	26.1%
Food Packaging	4,459	16.9%
Beverage Litter	2,884	10.9%
Beverage Containers	2,515	9.5%
Household Items	922	3.5%
Construction Materials	441	1.7%
Sanitary Items	209	0.8%
Clothing	151	0.6%
Toys & Sporting Equipment	127	0.5%

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are some changes in the top 10 grouped items when compared with 2022. Soft plastics moved from second to first place with an increase of 8.1%. This increase may have been influenced by the collapse of REDcycle in November 2022. Non-food packaging moved from first to second place with a reduction of 6.1%, food packaging increased at 3.6% and remained in third place, while beverage litter such as bottle tops and lids, straws and corks moved up one place to fourth place with an increase of 2.3%. Beverage containers moved down to fifth place with a slight reduction of 1%.

The good news is sanitary items decreased by 7.6%, reflecting a significant reduction in the number of face masks reported.

All other items show minimal percentage changes over 2022.

TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Individual Items	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastic Pieces	6,118	23.1%
Cigarette Butts	3,298	12.5%
Straws	2,752	10.4%
Glass Pieces	1,657	6.3%
Takeaway Food Containers	1,257	4.8%
Bottle Caps and Lids	1,248	4.7%
Plastic Beverage Bottles (single-use)	1,083	4.1%
Pieces of plastic	1,018	3.8%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	979	3.7%
Chips and Confectionery Bags	909	3.4%

NOTABLE CHANGES

The top 10 individual items remain almost consistent with 2022, with the exception of face masks no longer making the top 10.

Soft plastic pieces increased by 8%, followed by straws at 7% and an increase of 1% in bottle caps and lids, which aligns with the increase in beverage litter in the grouped items above. Glass pieces decreased by 3% and plastic packaging pieces by 1%.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

SA	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Coastal/Beach	14	8.3%
Footpath	11	9.4%
Park	19	29.9%
Public Bushland	15	14.1%
River/Creek	13	16.7%
Roadway	22	18.0%
School Grounds	2	1.6%
Shops/Mall	1	1.2%
Other	3	0.9%