

LITTER REPORT FY23 VIC

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 Victoria, the Report is based on the count of 112,576 items from 305 surveyed locations (106,169 items from 314 locations in 2022).

VIC SITES REGISTERED:

4,225 (2,706 in 2022)

VIC ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

204,835 (175,921 in 2022)

VIC ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

409,670 (351,842 in 2022)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

| | FY23 Count | % |
|--------------------|------------|--------|
| Soft Plastics | 48,239 | 42.9% |
| All Other Plastics | 22,656 | 20.1% |
| Hard Plastics | 22,241 | 19.8% |
| Metal | 8,624 | 7.7% |
| Paper/Cardboard | 4,968 | 4.4% |
| Glass | 3,923 | 3.5% |
| Miscellaneous | 685 | 0.6% |
| E-Waste | 504 | 0.4% |
| Wood | 383 | 0.3% |
| Rubber | 353 | 0.3% |
| | 112,576 | 100.0% |

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM 2022

| ↑ Increases: | ↓ Decreases: | Unchanged: |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Soft Plastics 21.9% | All Other Plastics 15.1% | Hard Plastics |
| | Metal 4.1% | Paper/Cardboard |
| | Glass 1.3% | E-Waste |
| | Miscellaneous 1.1% | Wood |
| | | Rubber |

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

| Grouped Items | FY23 Count | % |
|------------------------|------------|-------|
| Soft Plastics | 48,239 | 42.9% |
| Non-Food Packaging | 27,118 | 24.1% |
| Beverage Containers | 17,910 | 15.9% |
| Food Packaging | 11,054 | 9.8% |
| Beverage Litter | 3,156 | 2.8% |
| Household Items | 2,256 | 2.0% |
| Sanitary Items | 863 | 0.8% |
| Construction Materials | 630 | 0.6% |
| E-Waste | 504 | 0.4% |
| Clothing | 368 | 0.3% |

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are some changes in the top 10 grouped items when compared with 2022. Soft plastics moved from third to first place with an increase of 21.9%. This increase may have been influenced by the REDcycle collapse in November 2022.

Non-food packaging moved from first to second place with a reduction of 5.6%, while beverage containers moved from second to third place with a decrease of 7.8%. Decreases also occurred in food packaging by 1.3%, beverage litter by 1.7% and e-waste by 1%.

The good news is sanitary items decreased by 5%, 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 | 42,205 | 37.5% |
| Cigarette Butts | 19,799 | 17.6% |
| Aluminium Beverage Cans | 7,207 | 6.4% |
| Plastic Beverage Bottles (single-use) | 7,153 | 6.4% |
| Chips and Confectionery Bags | 4,153 | 3.7% |
| Takeaway Coffee Cups | 3,101 | 2.8% |
| Takeaway Food Containers | 2,868 | 2.5% |
| Beverage Bottles (e.g. beer/soft drink) | 2,668 | 2.4% |
| Straws | 2,333 | 2.1% |
| Polystyrene packaging | 2,193 | 1.9% |

NOTABLE CHANGES

The top 10 individual items remain mostly consistent with 2022, with the exception of face masks and glass pieces no longer making the top 10 but being replaced by beverage bottles and polystyrene packaging. Soft plastic pieces moved into first place showing an increase of 23% over 2022, replacing cigarette butts. It's unclear whether Victorian volunteers have focused their collection efforts on soft plastic pieces in the aftermath of the REDcycle suspension.

The good news is that cigarette butts reduced by 3% from 2022. Aluminium beverage cans remain at third place with a decrease of 4%, while plastic single-use bottles reduced by 2% from 2022.

Other good signs include decreases of 1% in chips and confectionery bags, takeaway coffee cups and takeaway food containers as a percentage of reported litter.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

| VIC | Number of sites | % of total litter count |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Coastal/Beach | 38 | 22.0% |
| Footpath | 23 | 3.5% |
| Outdoor Transport | 3 | 1.5% |
| Park | 75 | 14.7% |
| Public Bushland | 32 | 5.6% |
| River/Creek | 52 | 26.0% |
| Roadway | 44 | 14.0% |
| School Grounds | 26 | 9.9% |
| Other | 12 | 3.0% |