

# THE VALUE OF ENFORCEMENT

Every initiative of Keep Tennessee Beautiful is rooted in a desire to educate.

Educating the public is the key to the behavior change needed to end littering, but some will only change through consequences.

Over 70% of interstate litter in Tennessee is the result of unintentional littering, proving that many people in need of behavior change aren't even aware.

Enforcement is an invaluable component to litter prevention. Your hard work in this role is appreciated!



## OUR MISSION

*To educate and inspire Tennesseans to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment.*



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF LITTER LAWS



[keepnbeautiful.org](http://keepnbeautiful.org)



## TN LITTER LAW

This brochure will serve as a quick reference for the laws related to littering in Tennessee.

Litter is a tremendous and wasteful public burden.

Litter currently costs the state over 23 million dollars a year.

Much of that expense can be mitigated when the laws around littering are enforced and respected.



# LITTER ACCORDING TO THE LAW

## 39-14-502. Offense of littering.

- Knowingly or negligently places, drops/throws litter on any public or private property without permission and does not immediately remove it. (Including perishable and nonperishable items)
- Whenever litter is placed, dropped, or thrown from any motor vehicle, an officer may infer that the operator of the conveyance has committed littering.
- Whenever litter discovered on public or private property is found to contain the name of or other sufficient evidence that the items belonged to an individual, the officer may infer that the individual has committed the act of littering.



# TYPES OF LITTERING

## Mitigated criminal littering

Class B misdemeanor  
Litter less than or equal to 5 lbs or 7.5 cubic feet in volume.



## Criminal littering



Class B misdemeanor  
Litter less than or equal to 10lbs or 15 cubic feet.

## Aggravated Criminal littering

Class A misdemeanor  
Litter exceeding 10lbs or 15 cubic feet, or any amount for commercial purpose. (including 2 or more tires)



# UNSECURED LOADS

## 39-14-507. Motor vehicles transporting litter.

Class B misdemeanor  
Any motor vehicle that transports litter or any material likely to fall or be blown off onto the highways, shall be required to have such material either in an enclosed space or fully covered by a tarpaulin.



## Exceptions

- vehicles transporting recovered materials to a convenience center
- vehicles that transport crushed stone, fill dirt and rock, concrete, other building materials,
- This exemption shall not apply to any load if any law enforcement officer sees any part of the material blowing off the vehicle.