



Surfrider-Connecticut's Personal Portable Ashtrays are:

- Fire resistant – made from heat retardant ABS material
- Reusable and durable – lasting up to 12 months
- Fun and funky
- Easy to use
- Trap in most smell and smoke
- Have a clip on the back to allow you to attach them to your belt, bag or clothing. It will even attach to your swimwear!

Surfrider-Connecticut's Personal Portable Ashtray can be used for:

- Safe, environmentally friendly disposal of cigarette-butts
- Help keep our cities, beaches, harbors, waterways, parks, ski slopes and the rest of this beautiful State clean!



Please visit the following websites for more information:

- www.surfrider.org/connecticut
- www.surfrider.org
- www.ecolad.com
- www.cigwaste.org/preproduction
- www.cigarettelitter.org
- www.buttout.net



Surfrider-Connecticut was founded in July 2006 to be Connecticut's chapter of the international environmental organization known as the Surfrider Foundation. To date, we have voluntarily cleaned up Hammonasset State Beach in Madison, Gulf Beach, Walnut Beach and Silver Sands State Park in Milford and Seaside Park in Bridgeport. In addition, we have worked with the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment to oppose TransCanada/Shell's construction of a liquefied natural gas facility in the middle of Long Island Sound (the "Broadwater" initiative). To educate the younger residents of our State about Long Island Sound and its environment we host an annual storm drain marker design contest. We have also participated in the Mystic May Day Parade and the Milford Oyster Festival. For fundraisers, we have organized multiple Beach Bashes and Movie Nights and the chapter members enjoy riding some waves during the annual camping trip.

During our volunteer beach clean-ups, we were dismayed to find more cigarette-butts in the sand than we could possibly pick up. These butts are believed to leak carcinogens into the sand and water, not to mention they are known to pose choking hazards to children and wildlife. Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures who mistake them for food. Composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic, cigarette-butts can persist in the environment as long as other forms of plastic.



What happens after that butt gets casually flicked onto the street, nature trail, or beach? Typically wind and rain carry the cigarette into the water supply, where the toxic chemicals the cigarette filter was designed to trap leak out into aquatic ecosystems, threatening the quality of the water and many aquatic life forms. Cigarette-butts may seem small, but with several trillion butts littered every year, the toxic chemicals add up!

Surfrider-Connecticut is initiating a multi-year program to reduce the level of cigarette-butt pollution along Connecticut's state beaches. The butt holders were purchased with the generous help of Patagonia-Westport. The reduction in cigarette-butts on Connecticut's beaches will benefit all beach users as well as the local natural environment. So here is what you can do to help:

1. Dispose of your cigarette-butts in the holders provided by Surfrider-Connecticut.
2. Upon your departure, dispose of the cigarette-butts at one of the multiple receptacles in the parking lot or at the park exit.
3. Make sure to keep your holder in a safe place and bring it to your next beach visit for re-use!
4. Surfrider-Connecticut, all beach visitors and the environment thank you for your participation in the program!



Facts about cigarette-butt litter:

1. Cigarette-butt litter is the world's greatest environmental litter problem.
2. Globally, approximately 4.3 trillion cigarette-butts are littered every year. Smokers in the USA account for over 250 billion cigarette-butts. In most Western countries cigarette-butt litter accounts for around 50% of all litter.
3. Cigarette butt litter dramatically increases where indoor smoking bans are implemented.
4. It can take up to 12 years for a cigarette-butt to break down.
5. Cigarette-butts can leach chemicals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic into our marine environment within an hour of contact with water.
6. Cigarette-butts have been found in the stomachs of fish, whales, birds and other marine animals which leads to ingestion of hazardous chemicals and digestive blockages.
7. Smokers in many countries can be fined for flicking a lit cigarette.
8. And the final and most important thing to know about cigarette butt litter is: Only smokers can stop cigarette-butt litter. They need to be educated that butts are litter, and provide a positive alternative to littering.



SDSU Study Says Cigarette Butts Kill Fish

San Diego State University researchers say filter-tipped cigarette butts are toxic to marine and fresh-water fish. KPBS Environment Reporter Ed Joyce tells us they want those butts classified as hazardous waste.

SDSU Public Health Professor Tom Novotny and other members of the Cigarette Butt Advisory Group plan to recommend that filtered cigarette butts should have new requirements for disposal.

They say the toxic waste in the butts harms wildlife and the environment. "It is toxic at rather low concentrations," Novotny said. "Even one butt in a liter of water can kill the fish in a period of 96 hours."

The recommendation is based on new research from SDSU Public Health Professor Rick Gersberg.

A cigarette butt is a combination of a plastic filter and the remnants of a smoked cigarette. The filter is non-biodegradable, and the tobacco remnant is toxic until it biodegrades into the environment.

What remains in the filter are residues, tars, and particulates.

Novotny says cigarette butts are the number one littered substance in the world, with several years as the number one single item picked up on beach cleanup days in San Diego and elsewhere.

"When they unconsciously throw their butts onto the ground, it's not just litter, it's a toxic hazardous waste product," Novotny said. "And that's what we're trying to say. So that may be regulated at the local or state level. And we hope people will be more conscious about what they do with these cigarette butts."

He says stronger enforcement of non-smoking areas and anti-litter laws could help reduce the butts.

Other policies could include fines, waste fees or taxes to pay for recycling or making manufacturers pay for cleanup costs.

Ed Joyce, KPBS News.