

Littering

What is littering?

Littering is when you dispose your rubbish on public or private land that is not an authorised waste management.

What are some examples of littering in the Cook Islands?

Litter can be domestic or commercial waste. It may include general rubbish, food scraps, plastic, animal remains, glass, metal, debris, rubble, ballast, sewage, or any other items of a similar nature.

- All litter thrown out of vehicles;
- Rubbish disposed near streams;
- Rubbish disposed in wetlands and foreshores;
- Glass bottles and nappies left on the beach;
- Whiteware disposed on vacant or swamp land.

Why is littering an issue? What are the negative impacts?

Litter can negatively impact the health of our environment and people in the following ways:

- Land, air and ocean pollution;
- Hazardous toxins inhaled and ingested by humans, animals and plants;
- Increase the risk of mosquito- borne diseases;
- Adverse impact on the surrounding environment;

- Threat to biodiversity and ecosystems.

What can we do to stop littering?


- Dispose rubbish in the assigned bins /location;
- Take rubbish home after a day out;
- Encourage family and friends to dispose litter properly;
- Practice the 5Rs to minimise waste: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle.

Is littering an offence?

It is an offence to litter in public areas or private land without consent from the landowner.

This is specified in the Public Health Act 2004 and Part 4 of the Environment Act 2003.

Who can you call to report littering?

 +682 21256

 resources@cookislands.gov.ck

