

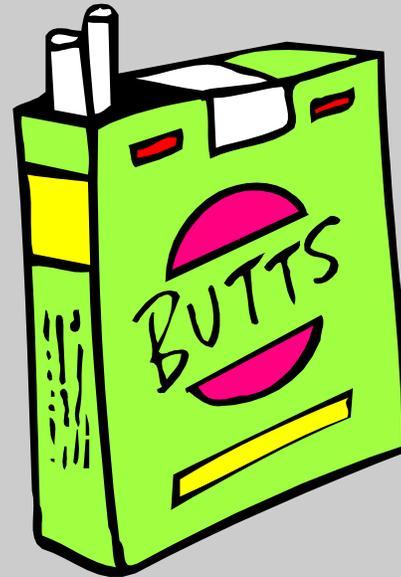
**Pitch those cigarette butts into an ashtray - not the gutter pan.  
The fish will thank you!**

Have you ever noticed how many cigarette butts are in our streets? Maybe not, but in fact cigarette butts are the most littered item in America. These little fellows make our cities dirty, ugly, and worst of all, they are harmful to pets, children and wildlife if ingested and can pollute our receiving waterways.

Most people don't realize that cigarette butts, carelessly tossed on the ground, contribute to the contamination of our fragile environment. Still others mistakenly believe that cigarette butts are biodegradable and, therefore, not harmless to the environment. The reality is that the filter of the cigarette is made of cellulose acetate, which is NOT biodegradable, and the butts contain toxic residues - making them harmful.

Just look at the potential impacts from tossing out these little babies:

- If still lit, they may cause forest fires
- If still lit, they may cause house fires
- Chemicals in the butts may contaminate soils, groundwater or receiving waters
- Chemicals in the butts may poison small children, pets, or wildlife if ingested



Tossing butts into the gutter is a problem that potentially affects all of us—smokers and non-smokers alike. And the solution is in the hands of everybody too! If you are a smoker, use an ashtray, personal pocket ashtray or the available receptacles outside of almost every public place to discard your cigarette butt. DON'T throw them out of your car window or into the street or on the sidewalks. For non-smokers, your mission is to try to encourage the smokers in your life to at least be responsible and properly dispose of **t h e i r BUTTS!**



**KEEP YOUR BUTT OUT OF THE GUTTER!**