

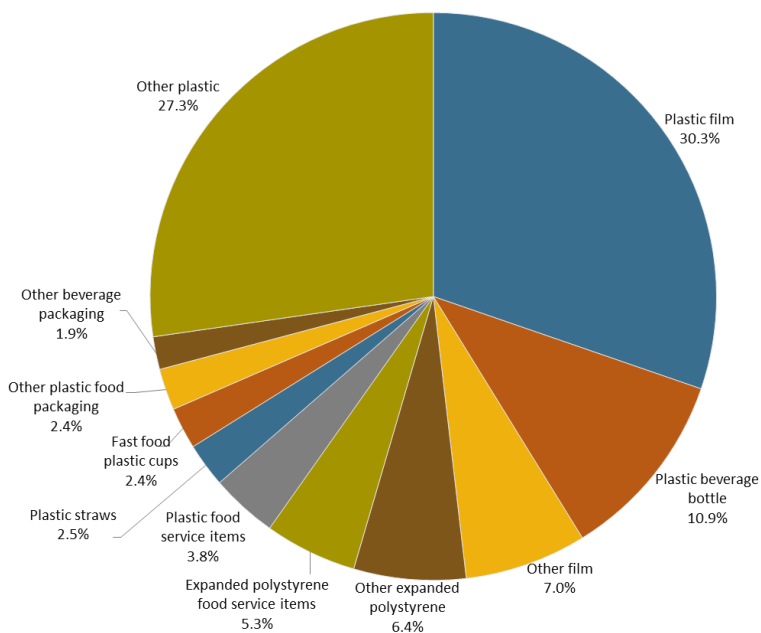
LITTER IN PENNSYLVANIA

RESULTS FROM THE 2019 PENNSYLVANIA LITTER RESEARCH STUDY

PLASTIC LITTER

Reducing littering behavior is key to a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. The 2019 Pennsylvania Litter Study provides a comprehensive understanding of the litter issue in Pennsylvania, allowing for the development of tailored strategies and initiatives to combat litter within the Commonwealth. In addition, the Study provides a basis for future measurement of progress towards reducing litter.

COMPOSITION OF PLASTIC LITTER BY
MATERIAL CATEGORY
(ALL PENNSYLVANIA ROADWAYS)



Litter impacts quality of life, the natural environment and economic development in communities across Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania roadways are littered with approximately 502.5 million pieces of litter.

KEY FINDINGS

- Plastic represents over 30 percent (152.9 million) of all litter found on Pennsylvania roadways.
- Plastic film including plastic trash bags, other plastic bags and food packaging film was the most prevalent plastic items found littered on Pennsylvania roadways followed by other plastic and plastic beverage containers.
- Plastic beverage containers, such as soda, wine and liquor, sports and health drinks, juice, tea and coffee, water and other plastic bottles and containers represent over a quarter (25.8 percent) of greater than 4-inches in size plastic litter.
- Food packaging film and other plastic represent the largest portion of small plastic litter or less than 4-inches in size.

The 2019 Pennsylvania Litter Research Study was prepared by Burns and McDonnell, funded by the Pennsylvania Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation. The study used methodology developed by Keep America Beautiful. All contents Copyright 2019 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

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AGGREGATE COMPOSITION OF PLASTIC LITTER BY MATERIAL CATEGORY (ALL PENNSYLVANIA ROADWAYS)

Group	Categories	4-inch-plus	4-inch-less	Total Count	Percent of Total
Plastic	Food packaging film	5,849,242	33,201,193	39,050,435	7.8%
	Other film	3,585,321	7,056,673	10,641,993	2.1%
	Other expanded polystyrene	682,685	9,092,026	9,774,711	1.9%
	Expanded polystyrene food service items	1,236,963	6,820,568	8,057,531	1.6%
	Other plastic beverage bottles or containers	1,024,543	4,929,704	5,954,247	1.2%
	Plastic food service items	1,802,159	4,017,632	5,819,791	1.2%
	Water bottle	3,669,078	455,732	4,124,811	0.8%
	Plastic straws	1,275,175	2,563,218	3,838,392	0.8%
	Plastic trash bags - empty	178,935	3,455,778	3,634,713	0.7%
	Fast food plastic cups	2,306,685	1,322,345	3,629,031	0.7%
	Other plastic food packaging	1,062,208	2,551,807	3,614,014	0.7%
	Other plastic bags - empty	1,944,042	1,366,453	3,310,495	0.7%
	Other beverage packaging	230,245	2,622,543	2,852,789	0.6%
	Soda	2,105,786	111,467	2,217,253	0.4%
	Sports & health drinks	992,569	722,773	1,715,342	0.3%
	Other wine & liquor	6,067	1,613,482	1,619,549	0.3%
	Tea & coffee	287,473	279,819	567,293	0.1%
	Juice	238,986	-	238,986	0.0%
	Single serve wine & liquor	125,710	111,467	237,176	0.0%
	Other plastic bags - full	170,890	-	170,890	0.0%
	Plastic trash bags - full	113,127	-	113,127	0.0%
Other plastic	3,841,673	37,845,592	41,687,265	8.3%	
Subtotal Plastic		32,729,562	120,140,272	152,869,834	30.4%



The 2019 Pennsylvania Litter Research Study, related research and additional fact sheets can be found at www.keppabeautiful.org/about-us/publications/.

Learn more about the statewide effort to reduce littering at www.dep.pa.gov/litteringactionplan.

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