

# It's The Law

Littering is against the law. The Virginia State Code and the King William County Code state:

Virginia State Code 33.1-346. Dumping trash, companion animals, etc., on highway, right-of-way or private property; penalty. Any person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor who dumps or otherwise disposes of trash, garbage, refuse, litter or other unsightly matter, on public property, including public highways right of way, or on private property without the written consent of the owner thereof or his agent.

King William County Code 58-182. Uncovered vehicles; allowing escape of load material; penalty. No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless the vehicle is constructed or loaded to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom. Violations of this section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## Litter Facts

### 1. Litter is not just ugly. It threatens health and safety too.

Litter provides a breeding place for rats, insects and disease. One cubic foot of garbage is capable of generating 75,000 flies. Trash thrown from motor vehicles can temporarily blind drivers, increasing the number of accidents. Debris that fall from uncovered trucks is a constant threat to motorists.

### 2. Litter is a threat to wildlife and plants.

Small animals crawl into bottles and cans and can't get out. Plastic six pack holders entangle birds and other animals. Loggerhead turtles swallow plastic bags and die because the plastic bags resemble jellyfish – their favorite food. Litter breaks delicate plant stalks and stems and can eventually kill the entire plant.

### 3. Litter is expensive to pick up.

Litter cleanup costs Americans \$2.5 billion annually. It costs \$5 million a year in Virginia alone. Everyone pays these costs. Every year, motorists drop over 16,000 pieces of litter on each mile of primary highway.

### 4. Recycling – an appropriate alternative to littering.

The average American makes about 5 pounds of trash per day. A great deal of that trash could and should be recycled. Glass, aluminum and plastic thrown from a car will last almost forever if it isn't picked up.

**Remember: The owner or operator of the vehicle can be held accountable for litter coming from a vehicle.**

K  
I  
N  
G  
  
W  
I  
L  
L  
I  
A  
M  
  
C  
O  
U  
N  
T  
Y



Report A Litterer

Keep

King William County

Streets

and

Highways

Clean and Litter Free

Sponsored by  
King William County  
Litter Prevention Department  
and  
King William County Sheriff's Office

**Littering is a  
problem for  
everyone!**

**Reporting is  
Anonymous**

**How To Report  
A Litterer...**

A Virginia Driver's License is a privilege and carries great responsibilities. One of the responsibilities of a licensed driver is to ensure the proper disposal of all trash from the vehicle.

This program will help by reminding people that litter has been thrown from their vehicle. To Report a Vehicle, take down the information described in this brochure. Give as much information as you can. Send the information to Mary Walton, Litter Prevention Coordinator, King William County/Town of West Point by mail, phone or e-mail. When I receive the information on a certain vehicle, that information will be sent to the King William Sheriff's Office and they will send a letter to the registered owner of the vehicle. This letter will be advisory and will not result in any punitive action or further investigation. Neither the King William Sheriff's Office nor the Litter Prevention Department will maintain a record of this as an actual traffic violation.

Littering is illegal and anyone convicted of littering in King William County can be punished by a fine of not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$2,500.00 and by imprisonment for not more than twelve (12) months in jail, either or both. Additionally, upon conviction, the Court may further order the defendant to community service removing litter from the roadways. Virginia spends about 5 million tax dollars annually for litter cleanup; and nationally, the cost is 2.5 billion tax dollars annually for litter cleanup. Debris in the roadway causes approximately 2,500 vehicular accidents a year. Littering is unhealthy and it damages our quality of life.

An auto litterbag or other means of disposal should always be available in your vehicle. Please encourage all drivers and occupants of your vehicle to use the ashtray or litterbag and obey the litter laws of the community.



King William County  
Est. 1702

A King William County, VA Publication

Littering is against the law. If you witness somebody littering from their car in King William County, mail this completed form within seven (7) days to King William County, Litter Prevention Department, 180 Horse Landing Road, P. O. Box 215, King William, Virginia 23086. The King William County Sheriff's Office will then contact the vehicle's owner.

Car \_\_\_\_\_ Truck \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Littering done by:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Driver \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tossed \_\_\_\_\_ Dumped from vehicle

Type of litter: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Violation: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Violation: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M./P.M.

Location of Violation: \_\_\_\_\_

King William County  
Litter Prevention Department  
180 Horse Landing Road  
P. O. Box 215

King William, VA 23086

\*You can mail this folder, report by phone  
(804) 769-4917 or e-mail information to

[mwalton@kingwilliamcounty.us](mailto:mwalton@kingwilliamcounty.us)