

Excerpt from July 2, 2018 Baseline Statewide Visual Litter Study

Documenting that plastics make up the largest percentage of roadside litter in Delaware.

Litter Pieces Per Road Mile, Statewide Average

Because of the large impact of tobacco products (primarily cigarette butts) on litter pieces less than four inches, litter studies typically divide litter into larger and smaller pieces for reporting purposes.

On average, the Project Team estimates that there are 1,120 pieces of litter per centerline road mile greater than four inches in size, and 4,967 pieces of litter per mile less than four inches in size⁴. Figures E-2 and E-3 illustrate the percent of litter pieces by major material category.

Figure E-2. Percent Composition of Litter by Material Type Four Inches or Greater in Size

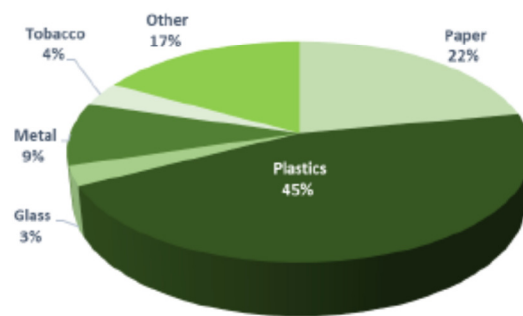
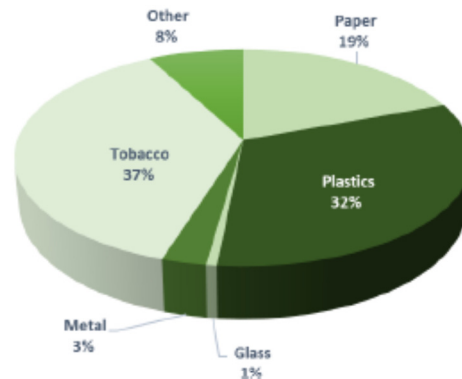


Figure E-2. Composition of Litter by Material Type Less Than Four Inches in Size



As illustrated by Figures E-2 and E-3, plastics are the predominant litter type for pieces four inches and greater, while tobacco products and plastics comprise just under 70 percent of all litter found under four inches in size.

⁴ Pieces of litter per centerline road mile refer to one side of the road, which means that one would multiply the pieces per centerline by two to derive total litter along each mile of Delaware roads.