

# Cigarettes Are Single-Use Plastics

Single-use plastics are a global environmental threat. Only about 10% of plastic waste is recycled. The rest is burned, sits in dumps or breaks down in the environment, adding to the growing problem of microplastics. Cigarette butts are one of the most pervasive single-use plastic products on Earth.



**Cigarette filters contain a plastic called cellulose acetate.**

Nearly all commercial cigarettes contain these filters.



**Cigarette butts are the most common type of plastic litter worldwide.**

Even ahead of plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic bottles and plastic food wrappers.



**Every minute, people dispose of 8.5 million cigarette butts.**

That's enough to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool in under an hour.



**Cigarette butts leach toxins into the environment and degrade into microplastics.**

Cigarette butts can leach nicotine and other chemicals that can harm or kill aquatic life. Microplastics have been found in water, in the air and even in human organs and breast milk.



**Cigarette filters do not provide health benefits.**

Studies show that filters do not reduce harms associated with smoking, and may even increase harms. They should not be exempt from regulation because of perceived health benefits.



**Cigarettes must be subject to single-use plastic regulation.**

The tobacco industry should have no role in creating these regulations, given its history of manipulating science and attempting to interfere in policy for its commercial benefit.

## Sources:

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