

#buttfreeYYC

Businesses Should Know: Cigarette Waste Information

Is cigarette litter all that bad?

Cigarette butts litter sidewalks and storefronts across our city, but many are not aware that this issue is more than just litter.

Some issues linked with cigarette litter include:

- Leaching of metals due to cigarette butts soaking in water (including rain).
- The longer a cigarette remains in an aquatic environment (river, plant that gets watered) the greater the contamination of metals will be.
- The leaching of metals can impact organisms in the environment around it.
- Studies have shown that cigarette butts have impacted the nesting habits of birds in urban environments.
- Flicking burning cigarette butts also poses a large fire hazard.



Benefits for Calgary

- By addressing cigarette litter, it allows Calgary to maintain the consistent ranking it receives as one of the worlds cleanest cities.
- By looking to eliminate cigarette butts it can create healthier environments for birds, fish and wildlife.
- By spreading awareness on the fire hazard that cigarette litter being thrown is, it could help limit future fires in our city.

What you as a business can do to help with cigarette waste

There are some very creative ways business can help with cigarette butts in the city. There are companies that offer programs that allow a business to ship their cigarette waste and receive points that can be redeemed towards items such as charitable gifts.

Businesses can pilot small initiatives if they are experiencing a lot of cigarette litter. For example, if a nightclub or bar wanted to put signage stating that “collected cigarette butts will be recycled please dispose of them properly” it could encourage patrons to dispose more responsibly and help keep streets and property owners businesses cleaner.

To help identify problematic areas, businesses could also work together with the City of Calgary by reporting to 311, this could help identify areas that could use additional education and infrastructure.

Examples of receptacles in Calgary

