

Fact Sheet

Litter Control

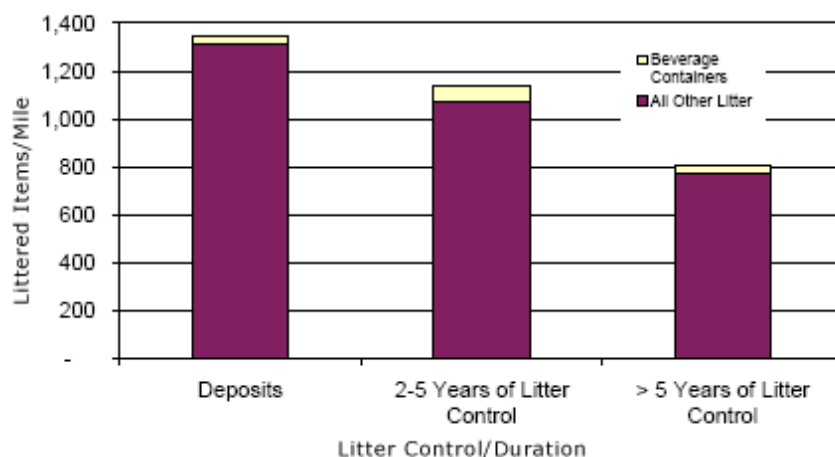
Forced Deposits and Litter Control

Forced deposit programs were originally developed to address litter problems. But the potential for deposits to improve the litter situation is limited because beverage containers constitute only 8.5 percent of all litter. Many other types of products and packaging account for the bulk of the litter problem – from simple candy and gum wrappers to fast-food packaging, blown tires and other debris. In the past three decades, many states have rejected forced deposits as too costly and inadequate to meet the broader challenge of litter prevention and control.

As with recycling, litter control programs with a comprehensive focus provide the best way to meet these broad challenges. Roadsides in comprehensive litter control states are cleaner than those in deposit states (see chart) after five years. Instituting a forced deposit program to address litter issues ignores 92 percent of the problem. Comprehensive litter programs also respond to the behavioral component of the litter issue through education and deterrence.

Overall impact of comprehensive litter control programs

Comprehensive Litter Control States Are Cleaner Than Deposit States



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