

# BAG THE BUTTS™



## Why Should We Bag the Butts?

98% of all cigarette filters are made of very thin plastic fibers, called cellulose acetate.

Under optimal conditions, cigarette filters can take 9 months to many years to decompose, breakdown or degrade.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item on earth.

Cigarette butts have been found in the stomachs of fish, whales, birds & other marine animals.

Toxic chemicals, such as cadmium, lead & arsenic can leach from cigarette butts into the water and soil.

Discarded cigarette butts can start forest fires.

Cigarette butts are small enough to be eaten by children and small animals.

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## What Is the Impact of Smoking?



**1,900:** The number of people **in NH** who die each year from smoking

**\$729 Million:** Amount of money spent on smoking-related healthcare costs **in NH** each year

**158:** Number of people **in NH** who die per month from smoking

**480,000:** Number of people in the U.S. who die each year from cigarette smoking (includes deaths from secondhand smoke)

**3,200:** Number of youth per day in the U.S. under 18 who smoke their first cigarette

**Cigarette Smoking:** Remains the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., about 1 out of every 5 deaths per year

**1,300:** Number of people that die each day in the U.S. due to smoking

**9 Out of 10 Smokers:** Start smoking by age 18

**95% of Adult Smokers:** Started smoking by age 21

**>\$300 Billion:** Cost to U.S. economy a year: nearly \$170 billion in direct medical costs & an additional \$156 billion in lost productivity

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