MARYLAND DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary
William Pines, P.E.
Administrator

Litter Dashboard FAQ

What is the Litter Pickup Program application?

The Litter Pickup Program application is a transparent method of sharing the State Highway's (SHA) litter pickup planning and progress along its state-maintained roadways. The Litter Pickup Program application displays for each roadway, the dates of inspection and evaluation, and dates of completed litter pickup activities.All state roadways are highlighted in green. The user can click onto any segment of the roadway and a pop-up window will appear providing the date of the latest evaluation for that selected roadway segment.

What is the purpose of the Litter Pickup Program application?

The Litter Pickup Program application will bring attention to SHA's entire roadway network and to share how SHA is tackling litter throughout the state. The generally intended pickup cycle/schedule is every four (4) weeks for all SHA-maintained roadways. The goals for this program are to educate Marylanders on how much state resources are allocated to picking up litter and to encourage people to stop littering so resources could be used on other transportation needs.

Why has litter pickup been delayed on some roadways?

SHA maintenance crews are responsible for a multitude of maintenance activities, including those necessary to preserve its roadway assets. Litter cleanup activities are weather dependent, due to the need for maintenance of traffic for the equipment supporting the cleanup and the safety of works. Also, needs can and do frequently arise, resulting in temporarily refocusing our attention to unscheduled activities. These can be the result of weather events or other emergencies. Additionally, particularly high volumes of litter require greater concentration of resources, including time, and can result in delays elsewhere. SHA is continually working to address hot spots and to provide attention to its entire roadway network.

Why is litter removal important?

Human littering is nationwide problem caused by purposeful behavior that harms others and the environment, whether it's tossing litter from a vehicle, allowing trash receptacles to overflow, allowing litter to blow loose from unsecured loads, or dumping at illegal sites. Litter removal is important for several reasons. Firstly, litter can have negative impacts on the environment, wildlife and public health. It can contaminate waterways, harm wildlife that may ingest or become entangled in it and create breeding grounds for disease-carrying pests. Secondly, litter can also have economic impacts, such as reducing property values and discouraging tourism.

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What are some common types of litter?

Common types of litter include debris lost from passenger vehicles and unsecured loads from trash collection trucks and other debris-hauling vehicles not properly covered to prevent such loss. Common litter includes cigarette butts, plastic bags, fast food packaging, beverage containers and construction trash. Other types of litter may include larger items like tires, car parts loose shopping carts, and discarded furniture.

Who performs litter removal and how is the work performed?

Litter removal is performed by SHA employees, contractual forces, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services pre-release inmates, volunteers through the Adopt-A-Highway Program, and maintenance providers through the Sponsor-A-Highway Program. Most work is performed manually using litter grabbers or other specialized tools to remove individual pieces of litter one by one. Some work is performed using mechanical sweepers or vacuums. Illegal dumping sites are often multi-day efforts to cleanup, requiring extensive resources and equipment.

Who is responsible for litter removal?

Litter prevention and removal is a shared responsibility for all Maryland residents and business owners. SHA makes a continual effort to keep our roadways clean; however, we need everyone's help. Individuals are responsible for properly disposing of their own litter, while businesses are responsible for ensuring that their properties are kept clean and litter free. State and local governments continue implementing litter control and enforcement programs, as well as providing resources and support for litter removal initiatives.

How can I help prevent litter?

One of the easiest ways to help prevent litter is to dispose of waste properly by using trash cans or recycling bins. Be sure to properly maintain, empty and secure your trash cans, as overflowing and loose cans dump considerable waste. You can also reduce the amount of waste you produce by using reusable bags and containers and by recycling whenever possible. Additionally, making sure your vehicle is properly loaded and secured before traveling or hauling litter for disposal, and participating in local clean-up efforts can help reduce litter in your community. Also, the SHA Adopt-A-Highway Program allows volunteers to pick up litter along lower-speed roadways. More information on this program can be found **here**.

What are some consequences for littering?

Maryland fines range from $1,500 to $30,000! In addition, littering can harm the environment, create health hazards and make public spaces less appealing. Keep Maryland Beautiful.

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How can we encourage others to stop littering?

One way to encourage others to stop littering is by setting a good example yourself. Keep a bag in your vehicle to temporarily store waste until proper disposal. You can also talk to friends and family members about the importance of proper waste disposal and participate in local clean-up efforts. Education campaigns and public service announcements can also help raise awareness about the impact of litter.

What if my address/location is not on an SHA maintained roadway? How can the Litter Pickup Program application help me?

SHA maintains Maryland's numbered roadways (e.g., IS-695, MD-97, US-50 etc.). Non-numbered roadways are maintained by Maryland's local jurisdiction. Please visit MDOT's "**Know Your Roads**" application to find information pertaining to the agency/jurisdiction responsible for maintaining any publicly maintained roadway in Maryland.

Troubleshooting

The Litter Pickup Program application will not load or crash when I try to access it. How can I fix this?

Confirm your device is installed with the latest version of your operating system and the latest version of internet browser. Additionally, confirm your device has available storage capacity.

Why can't I find the Litter Pickup Program application in any of the app stores?

The Litter Pickup Program application is constructed utilizing an internet browser-based application framework built to run on any device, responding to the size/format of the device. Therefore, the Litter Pickup Program application does not require or need to be installed on a device to function. Currently, there are no plans to construct this application as a native/downloadable app accessible from an app store.

Supported Browsers

- Google Chrome version 107 and later

- Microsoft Edge version 107 and later

- Mozilla Firefox version 109 and later

- Mozilla Firefox version 102 (ESR)

- Safari version 15 and later

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Mobile Devices

- Safari on iOS

- Android

- Chrome on Android

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