

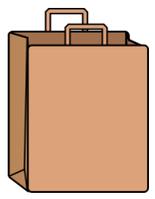
10 WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR TRASH FOOTPRINT



An easy way for anyone to be a watershed steward is to reduce your trash footprint. Every year, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, BWA removes thousands of pounds of waste from rivers and streams in the Beaver Lake Watershed. Use these 10 simple steps to prevent this problem before it even happens!

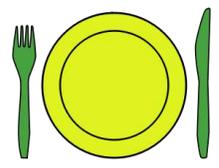


1. Carry reusable bags. If you need to get a plastic grocery bag, reuse it at home as a small trash bag.



2. Use reusable drinking containers for coffee and water. Every disposable cup you do not use keeps one from ending up in the environment.

3. Avoid using disposable utensils and bring your food to work or school in tupperware instead of using plastic bags, plastic utensils, and styrofoam.



4. Choose products that are packaged with recycled materials or less packaging all together.

5. Put waste in trash and recycling bins and close the lid. If no bin is available, keep it with you until you get home.



Did you know...

Plastic in various forms is one of the most reported types of waste by cleanup volunteers?

At coastal cleanups conducted around the world, cigarette butts are the most prevalent form of trash?

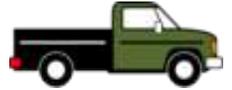
In Arkansas, cigarette butts are the number one form of litter reported?

Trash is not only unsightly, it also can cause organ failure and strangulation for organisms that ingest or become entangled in trash?

Trash is not the number one source of water pollution in Northwest Arkansas?



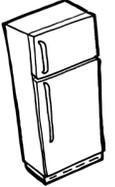
6. **Don't put unconsolidated trash in your truck bed** to keep it from blowing away into the environment when you drive.



7. **Always put out cigarettes in an ash tray** and dispose of them properly. Portable ash trays are available for hiking!



8. **Take electronic, bulky, and hazardous waste** to be properly disposed of where you live.



9. **If you see litter, pick it up!** Just because someone else didn't do his or her part doesn't mean you can't do yours!



10. **Try to borrow before buying** new things and share what you have with your family and friends!



Facts and Statistics

- ◆ At cleanups the BWA was involved in from 2012 to 2014, **27%** of trash collected by volunteers could be **recycled** on average.
- ◆ Over **2 million cigarette butts** were collected from 12,000 miles of coastline during the 2013 International Coastal Cleanup. Cigarette butts are the **number one reported litter** in Arkansas.
- ◆ **1 million plastic bags** are consumed **every minute** around the world. Each one takes approximately **1000 years to breakdown**. In 2012, only about **9%** of plastic waste was **recycled** in the United States.
- ◆ In 2014, **over 30,000 pounds of trash** was recovered at BWA cleanups by more than **1,000 volunteers**.

For more information about what you can do to keep trash out of the environment, go to:

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Dept. Adopt-a-Highway Program: http://www.arkansashighways.com/adopt_a_highway.aspx

Beaver Watershed Alliance: <http://www.beaverwatershedalliance.org/>

US Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/wastes/>

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality: <http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/sw/>

Keep Arkansas Beautiful: <http://keeparkansasbeautiful.com/>

