

PREVENTION WEDNESDAY

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City of Baltimore

Health Department

Don't Make Excuses – Make a Difference: Don't Litter

Did You Know?



Litter attracts rats, mice, flies, and mosquitoes

The Health Department received over 9,500 rat infestation complaints last year. Rats may carry fleas, lice and mites.



Rats and mice can cause damage to your home, contaminate food or spread disease.

Asthma, rat bite fever, salmonella and Hantavirus can be caused or triggered by these rodents.



Litter can clog storm drains and pollutes waterways

Litter and waste can clog water outlets, causing flooding. Litter in waterways (like the Inner Harbor) and flooding waters can expose the public to harmful pollutants for it can contain chemicals and pesticides, organic matter, such as animal feces, and various bacteria that wash off the ground.

Call 311

- To suggest a trash can location
- To report illegal dumping
- If you see a motorist littering
- If you experience service problems

Prevention at your finger

TIPS:

Tip 1 Put trash in its place.

Recycle bottles and cans. Do not drop cigarette butts or other litter on the ground. To keep rats at bay, ensure that garbage outside your home is placed into proper trash receptacles with lids. In your home, keep food contained and keep trash in a garbage can with a tightly sealed lid.

Tip 2 Dispose of unwanted chemicals responsibly.

Gas paints, paint thinners, pesticides, grease, fats and oils must not be disposed of through gutters or drains. They will clog and/or contaminate our water system. Call 311 to learn proper disposal of and scheduled pick up days for these chemicals.

Tip 3 Pick up after your pet.

Animal food and waste can attract rodents. If animal waste is left on the ground, it can wash into our water system and may contaminate the water supply. Discarding in trash receptacles protects humans and other pets from disease.



Mayor Sheila Dixon
www.preventionwednesday.org

Resources and References

The Department of Public Works

<http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/dpw/ratcontrol.php>

Baltimore City's Cleaner Greener Baltimore Program

<http://www.cleanergreenerbaltimore.com/uploads/files/How-YOU-Can-Make-A-Difference-Tips-for-Keeping-Baltimore-Clean.pdf>

The Baltimore City Health Department – Environmental Health Division

www.baltimorehealth.org

Baltimore's 311 Call Center

Phone: 311

Mice Control

www.unitedwildlife.com