

# Comprehensive Litter Control

- In response to growing public concern, many states launched litter control programs in the 1970s. Eleven states attempted to address this issue by passing some form of forced deposit program.
- Throughout the United States, beverage containers constitute only 8.5 percent of all litter and they join a wide range of other debris found on roadsides, parks and beaches. Because bottle bills target such a small part of litter, their impact on litter is minimal compared to comprehensive litter control solutions.

## Comprehensive litter control programs work

- A statewide initiative, “Don’t Mess with Texas,” reduced total litter 67 percent after six years.
- Comprehensive litter control programs succeed because they address the behavioral component of the litter issue through education and deterrence. Community involvement and clean-up programs, along with stiff fines for littering and dumping are key to the success of these programs.
- After just two years, the roadsides in states with comprehensive litter control programs are 15 percent cleaner than roadsides in deposit states. Where comprehensive litter programs operate more than five years, the roads are 40 percent cleaner than in deposit states. The reason? Deposits ignore 90 percent of the problem.



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