

10 TIPS FOR 10 PIECES



Thank you for volunteering to participate in the 10 Pieces litter collection initiative.

We can all pick up litter when we are out and about and if everyone picked some up, there would be much less to spoil the view and damage nature. So let's get into the habit of doing it and others will follow; collectively, we can create a cleaner world.

1. The problem of litter

Once you become aware of it, litter is ugly. It so easily spoils a beautiful scene. All too often there are deeper problematic consequences of litter than the superficial aesthetic one, it can harm wildlife and when it eventually washes into the sea, plastic litter can have long lasting impacts on the entire food chain.

2. Why only 10 pieces?

Well it's only nominal - you can of course pick up as much or as little as you like! But ten is the basis of our numerical system, we have ten fingers and it happens to be a reasonable number of items to pick up. The point is this: in order for the initiative to catch on we each have to develop a habit of doing it. For a habit to develop it helps if there is a simple idea behind it, hence 10 pieces! Further, a habit is more likely to form if we are motivated to repeatedly do something until the action is imprinted as a thought pathway in our minds. That habit will also be easier to develop if we have a system in place that makes it easier to pick litter up, have somewhere to store it and a place to properly dispose of it.

3. Where can I put it?

The most common impediment to picking up any litter is the problem of where to put it. *10 Pieces* recommends a reusable bag such as the purpose built Sea to Summit Trash Sack that is like a lightweight watertight bag. Essentially though, if you have a bag in which to put litter, you will be more inclined to start picking it up.

4. Do I have to get my hands dirty?

Another impediment to picking up litter is that we don't necessarily want to touch it with our bare hands so *10 Pieces* recommends using gloves or lightweight tongs and hand sanitiser.

5. Stay safe

Pick up litter only where it's safe to do so and without venturing off tracks where possible. Avoid picking up any hazardous items.

6. Where do I finally dispose of it?

The question of where to dispose of the litter is obviously critical and the answer to that will vary depending on where you are, but generally speaking, proper disposal involves permanently removing litter from the landscape, not taking it from one place to be dispersed in another. Solutions may involve incineration, landfill or in the best case, recycling.

7. It's all about education

In remote communities, before the ingress of industrially packaged commodities, traditional 'packaging' such as bamboo and pottery was biodegradable. Without harm, locals left this traditional packaging lying around. Along with development has come non-biodegradable litter, and without education some locals continue to leave this litter lying around. Through our *10 Pieces* initiative, we aim to educate both locals and other travellers alike, by setting a good example. In urban areas of developing countries be mindful that there may be locals who make a living from collecting litter.

8. Get creative and spread the word

We'd love to get photos and videos of you and your friends creating a cleaner world. Please share them with us. Talk about your involvement in *10 Pieces* on your social media channels and inspire your friends and family to take part. #10piecescleaner

9. Leave No Trace

If everyone followed the principles of Leave No Trace, there would be no litter to pick so naturally *10 Pieces* recommends following all seven of them: plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; leave what you find; minimise campfire impacts; respect wildlife; and be considerate of your hosts and other visitors.

10. Stay in touch

Join us on facebook.com/10PiecesCleaner and stay in touch. We'd love to hear about your *10 Pieces* experience.



If you have any questions, please email lisa@10pieces.com.au

"Take only photographs and 10 pieces of litter, leave only footprints"