

# Cigarette butts are **toxic** marine debris.



Look for new  
cigarette  
receptacles at  
Folly Beach  
walkovers.

**NO BUTTS  
ON THE  
BEACH**

IN THE CAN,  
NOT THE SAND.



For more information on this project visit:  
[www.scdhec.gov/CigaretteLitter](http://www.scdhec.gov/CigaretteLitter)

# Did You Know...

- Over 100,000 cigarette butts have been collected from South Carolina beaches since 2010.
- Most cigarette filters are made of a plastic called cellulose acetate which degrades very slowly.
- Plastics exposed to sunlight and waves break down into smaller and more numerous microplastics. These tiny plastics may last hundreds to thousands of years.
- Birds, fish, sea turtles, and other wildlife may ingest plastic debris, including cigarette butts, which can lead to choking, poisoning, or blockage of the gut.
- Metals and harmful chemicals seep out of cigarette butts into surrounding water and threaten local marine life.



Funding for this project has been made possible by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation ([www.NMSFocean.org](http://www.NMSFocean.org)) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program ([www.marinedebris.noaa.gov](http://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov)).