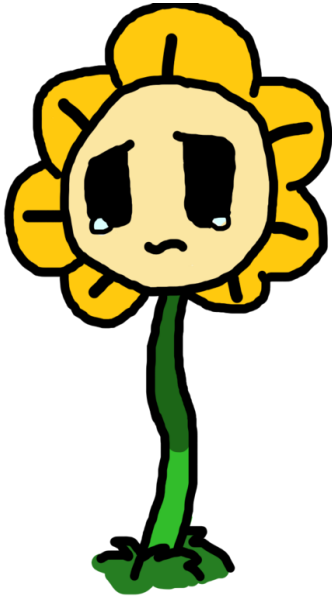


## Litter and the Environment

Litter can:



### Kill plants

Litter can cause plants to die for many reasons. It could be from polluted groundwater, through suffocation or starvation. People fly tipping heavy items on top of them can also mean plants get damaged and will no longer grow. We need plants not only to make our streets look pretty, but plants also supply oxygen into the atmosphere. Plants are also homes for many different types of wildlife, so they will have to find new homes or they may not survive.

### Start fires

Cigarette ends in particular can lead to fires starting, especially if people are not putting them out before throwing them on the ground. More flammable litter, such as newspapers and cardboard, can also be lightweight and therefore can cause fires to spread more quickly.



### Cause groundwater pollution

If chemicals get into the groundwater this can cause many problems for the environment. As well as killing plants, it can also get into rivers, killing fish and birds living by the water. In bad cases, it can also affect drinking water.

### Cause floods

Litter thrown into streets can block drains quite quickly. If this coincides with heavy rainfall flooding can occur rapidly.

