

ER Planning PR Bags Report Brief – 2015 Litter Survey Rankings

Background

Statistically based litter surveys using stratified random site selection methodologies consistently show that plastic retail bags (*PR Bags*) comprise a very small portion – less than 2.0 percent – of litter. This report brief shows the percentage of litter and the overall ranking of *PR Bags* among other collected items (categories) in litter surveys conducted since 2000 that specifically identified *PR Bags* and met the criteria noted above.

Table 1 - Plastic Retail Bags: 2015 Litter Survey Rankings

Survey	Year	Percent	Categories	Rank
Anacostia (DC/MD)	2015	1.3%	93	21
Rhode Island	2014	0.5%	69	28
Edmonton (AL)	2013	<0.1%	79	43
Texas	2013	1.95%	88	29
Edmonton (AL)	2012	0.3%	90	32
Toronto (ON)	2012	0.8%	84	25
Edmonton (AL)	2011	1.1%	90	23
Edmonton (AL)	2010	0.5%	90	33
Alberta	2009	0.0%	67	59
Edmonton (AL)	2009	0.3%	90	36
KAB National (US)	2009	0.6%	43	20
San Francisco (CA)	2009	1.5%	92	18
San Francisco (CA)	2008	0.6%	84	34
San Jose (CA)	2008	0.4%	76	30
Edmonton (AL)	2007	0.4%	90	36
San Francisco (CA)	2007	0.6%	82	35
Toronto (ON)	2006	0.1%	83	55
Toronto (ON)	2004	0.2%	83	49
Durham (ON)	2003	0.3%	81	46
Peel (ON)	2003	0.1%	78	51
York (ON)	2003	0.4%	66	41
Florida	2002	0.5%	69	36
Toronto (ON)	2002	0.6%	77	30
Florida	2001	0.7%	69	32

Ocean Conservancy – Plastic Grocery Bags in Beach Litter

Ocean Conservancy sponsors beach cleanup days across the U.S. Plastic grocery bags were tallied separately for the first time in 2013. Based on data from the 2,609 U.S. sites surveyed in 44 states, plastic grocery bags comprised 2.1 percent of all U.S. beach litter. For 35 of these states, plastic grocery bags comprised 2.9 percent or less. For 25 of these states, plastic grocery bags comprised 1.9 percent or less including California (1.7 percent), Oregon (1.4 percent) and Washington (0.9 percent).

Other states also showing that plastic grocery bags comprised 1.9 percent or less of beach litter include: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Who We Are

Environmental Resources Planning, LLC is the only private U.S. firm focusing exclusively on litter-related surveys and research. Our staff led litter surveys in Anacostia Watershed, Georgia, Maine, Malibu, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oakland, Rhode Island, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Tennessee, Toronto, Texas, Vermont, Washington, D.C. and Keep America Beautiful's *2009 National Litter Survey*. Field crews under our direction have surveyed more than 21 million square feet of roadways and recreational areas across North America. Our litter-related work has been featured in *Time*, *National Geographic* and *The New York Times* as well as on *ABC's Good Morning America* and *NPR*. Our senior staff has authored a number of litter-related publications including the Litter - Literature Review in 2007.