

Article 1

Smokers' etiquette – separating fact from fiction

Even if you want to dispose of your cigarette responsibly, urban myths doing the rounds make it hard to know right from wrong. We separate fact from fiction.

Claim 1:

Cigarette butts are biodegradable

Fiction

They actually take up to 12 years to break down. That means if you drop a butt when you're 18, it could still be there when you're 30.

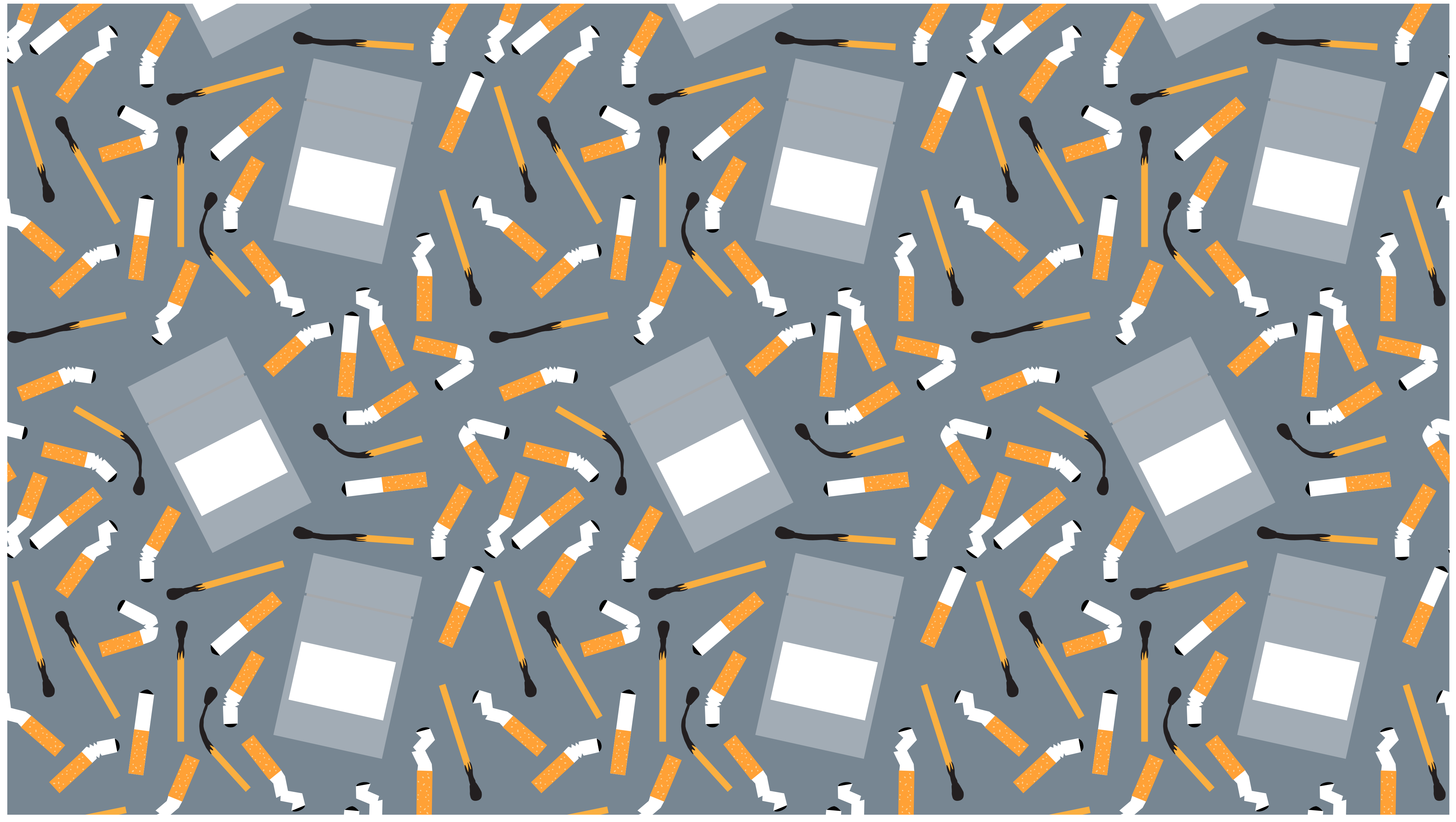


Claim 2:

We spend a packet cleaning up cigarette ends

Fact

It's not just the cigarette ends, it's the empty packets, cellophane wrappers and foil too. In fact, cigarette related waste accounts for nearly 40% of the littered items on our streets . Put them in the bin and we could save on clean-up costs, and use the savings to improve Scotland's essential services.



Claim 3:

Cigarette butts don't count as litter

Fiction

If you drop smoking-related items – including cigarette butts – on the street, they become 'waste in the wrong place'. And that makes them litter. Get caught in the act and you could earn yourself an £80 fine.



Claim 4:

Putting cigarette stubs in a litter bin is a fire hazard

Fiction

There's lots of confusion around whether binning butts is safe. Rest assured, as long as you check your cigarette is fully out, it's fine to put it in a rubbish bin.

