

## Understanding Nova Scotia's litter.

Divert NS recognizes that litter is an issue in Nova Scotia that needs to be tackled. In 2021, we completed a roadside litter audit, to assess what gets thrown away on our roadsides. This data will help inform education and prevention initiatives.

Where we did our research  
75 sites, 55 locations



## What we found.

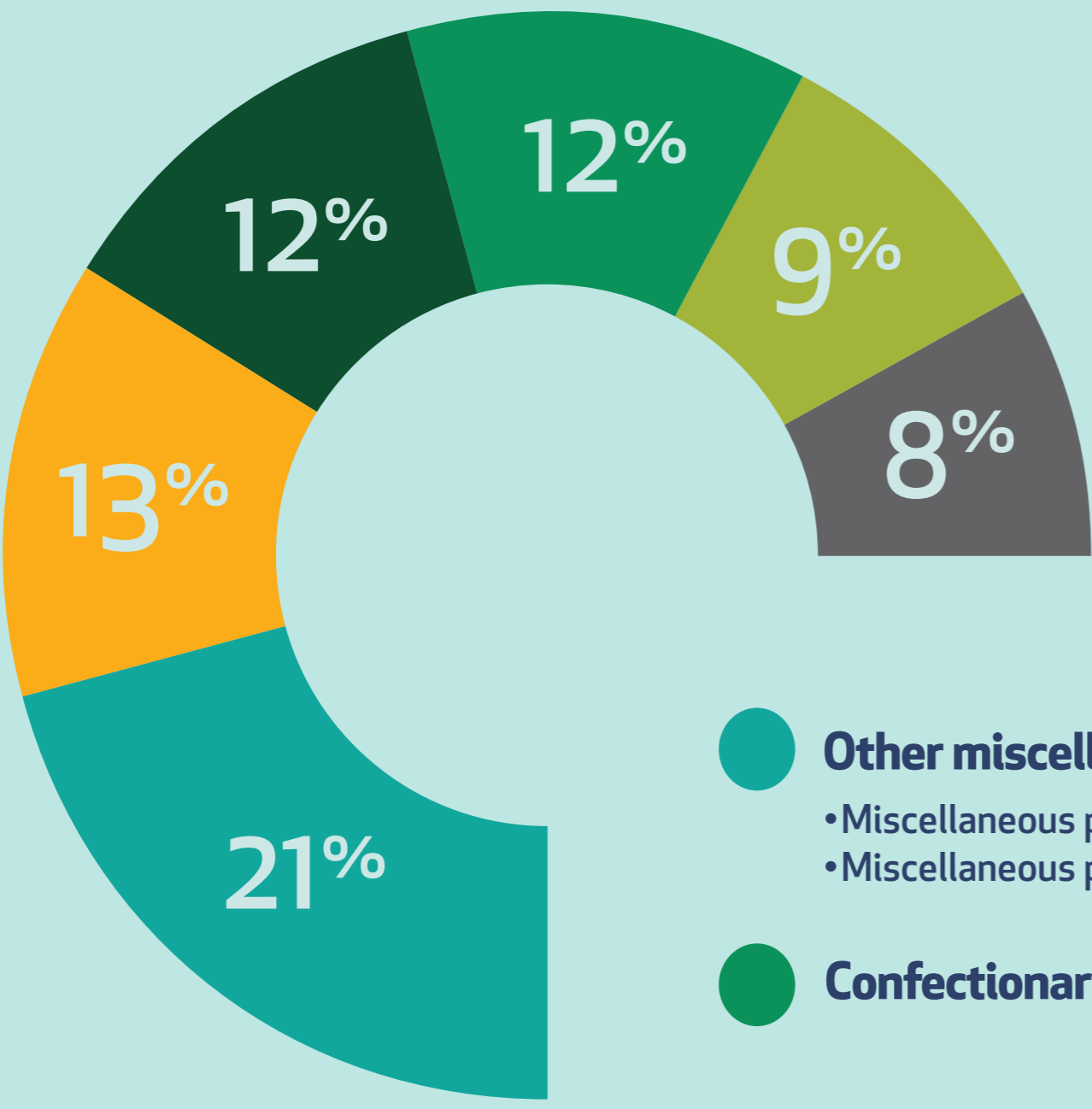
For the purposes of this audit, litter was categorized as:

### Small litter

Smaller than 25 square centimetres

### Large litter

Equal to or larger than 25 square centimetres



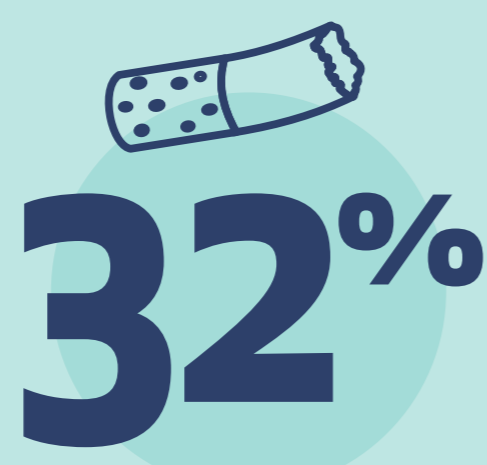
### Large litter by category

In 2021, a total of 2,844 large litter items were collected. Below is a breakdown of the six most common large litter types found, which accounted for 75% of all large litter collected during the audit.

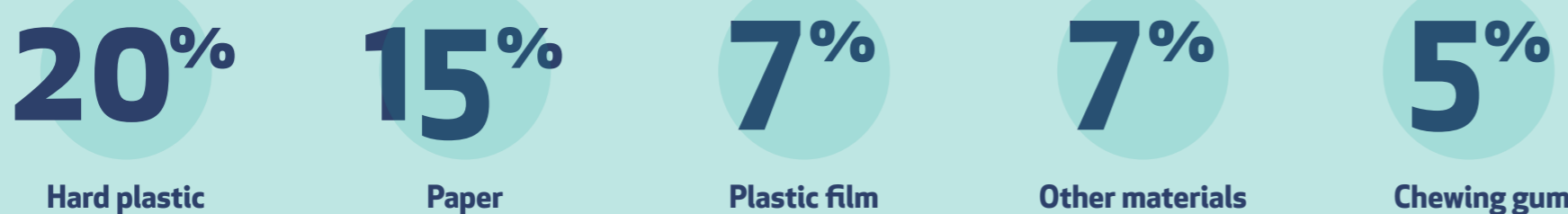
- Other miscellaneous**
  - Miscellaneous plastic
  - Miscellaneous paper
- Cups**
  - Hot cups
  - Cup lids, pieces
- Food wrappers**
  - Plastic wrap
  - Paper/foil composite
- Confectionary/snack**
- Paper/fibers**
- Beverage containers**

### Small litter by category

In 2021, a total of 4,840 small litter items were collected. Below is a breakdown of the six most common small litter types found, which accounted for 86% of all small litter collected during the audit.



### Cigarette butts/debris



## Impacts of Covid-19.

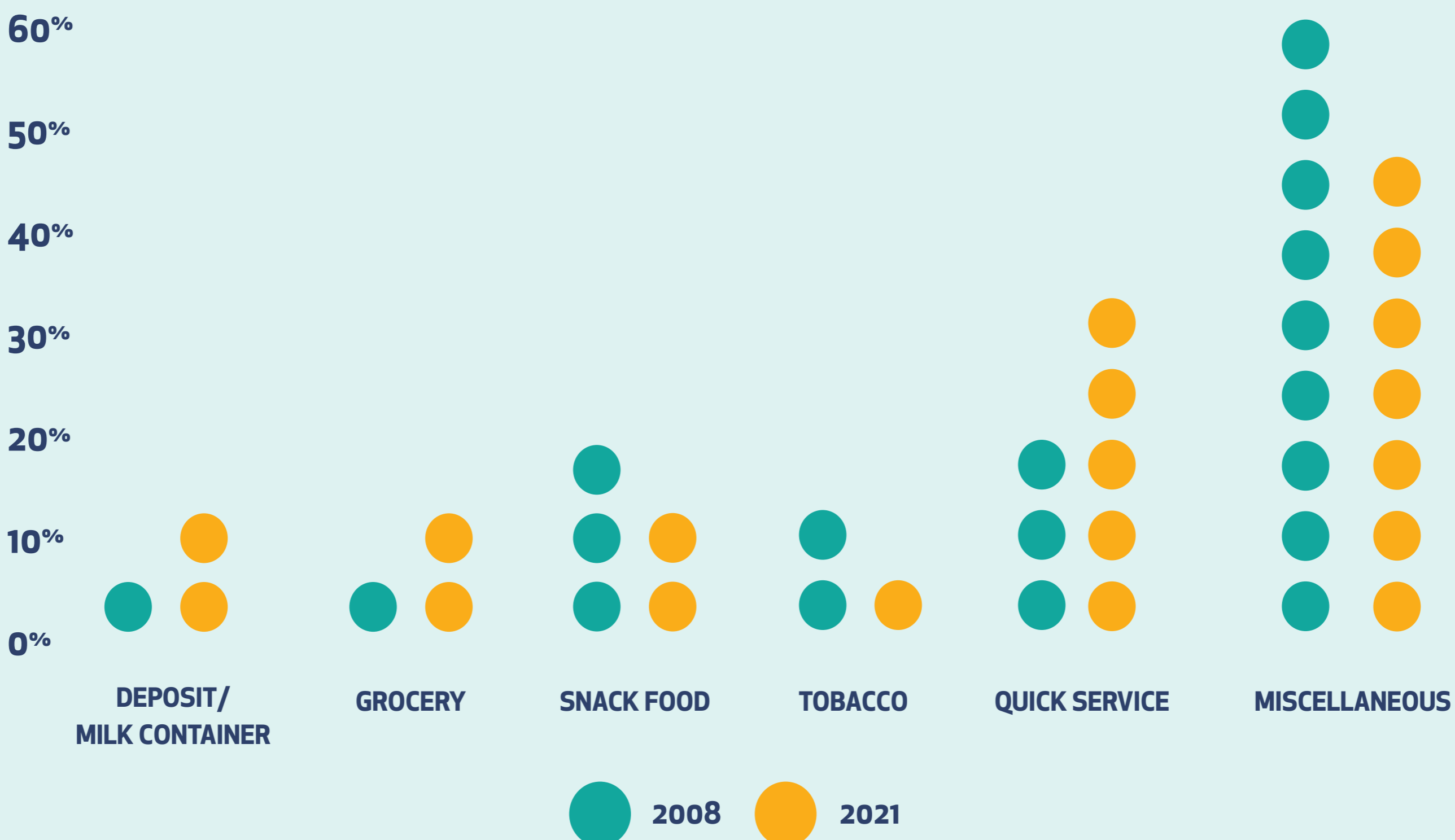
The 2021 roadside audit took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which likely impacted the results.

Medical waste, such as masks, gloves, and disinfecting wipes, accounted for 3% of large litter found. The pandemic could also have influenced the quantity and type of litter in other categories.

## Litter trends

Comparing the 2008 and 2021 audits shows a good indication of trends.

Several 2021 litter sub-categories were combined in order to compare audit results to the 2008 litter categories.



## Top five brands of recognizable litter.

Approximately 25% of the large litter collected had an identifiable brand. The brands below represent 56% of all of the branded litter found in 2021.

