

# WHAT is a CIGAR?

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A cigar is a roll of fermented tobacco wrapped either in tobacco leaf or paper that contains tobacco or tobacco extract.

## Large (Premium) Cigar:

Tobacco tightly rolled in dried tobacco leaves that is handmade and sells for at least \$2 per cigar. These cigars can be more than 7 inches in length, and typically contain between 5 and 20 grams of tobacco. Some premium cigars contain the tobacco equivalent of an entire pack of cigarettes, and can take between 1 and 2 hours to smoke.<sup>1</sup>



## Cigarillos or Small Cigars:

Tobacco wrapped in dried tobacco leaf or in any substance containing tobacco. These products are shorter and narrower than large cigars and contain about 3 grams of tobacco.<sup>1</sup> They are available with or without a filter tip.



Cigarillo/Small Cigar products are available in a variety of fruit and candy flavors and can often be purchased individually or in small 'packs' of five or less. Popular brands include *Black & Mild*, *Swisher Sweets*, *White Owl* and *Phillies Cigarillos*. These products are attractive, affordable, and attainable to youth.

<sup>1</sup> NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE. *Cigar Smoking and Cancer*. Available at: <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Tobacco/cigars>

## Little Cigars (Or Brown Cigarettes):

Little Cigars are nearly identical in size and appearance to cigarettes. The tobacco is wrapped in brown paper that contains some tobacco leaf (typically powdered tobacco leaf).



Little cigars are available in a variety of flavors and - just like cigarettes - are sold in packs of 20. Popular brands include *Winchester* and *Dutch Masters*.

## Differences between little cigars and cigarettes

**Little Cigars/Brown Cigarettes** are wrapped in brown paper containing some tobacco leaf. Just like cigarettes, though, they contain a filter, about 1 gram of tobacco, and are seemingly designed to be smoked like a cigarette.<sup>1</sup> Because they are classified as a cigar, little cigars are taxed differently than cigarettes and are generally less expensive, often making them a more affordable alternative to cigarettes.



**Cigarettes** are uniform in size and contain less than 1 gram of tobacco each. According to a National Cancer Institute report, U.S. cigarettes are made from different blends of tobaccos, which are never fermented, and they are wrapped with paper that does not contain any tobacco.<sup>1</sup> Most U.S. cigarettes take less than 10 minutes to smoke.<sup>1</sup> In Maryland, the average cost of a pack of cigarettes is just over \$6.00.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> CAMPAIGN FOR TOBACCO FREE KIDS. *State Excise and Sales Taxes Per Pack of Cigarettes: Total Amounts & Sales Rankings*. Available at: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0202.pdf>.