



FACT SHEETS!

CITY CENTRE

People come to Belfast to enjoy the great restaurants, nightlife, shopping and to experience the culture of the city. It's important that we keep our streets clean in order to attract tourists and to show that we are proud to be from Belfast.

FACT!

Over six million people visit Belfast each year.

Belfast City Hall is in the centre of the city and its grounds provide a splendid setting in the heart of Belfast.

FACT!

The City Hall was opened in 1906 and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006.

WHY DO PEOPLE LITTER?

- Research carried out by Belfast City Council found that 60% of people admitted to dropping litter.
- The main reason these people gave for littering was laziness, they simply could not be bothered to put their litter in a bin.

CLEANING OF THE CITY CENTRE

As there are so many people in the city centre during the day, a lot of the cleaning takes place at night when there are less people about.



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We use different methods to clean the city's streets:

- Some streets are cleaned by a street sweeper using a brush and cart.
- Some streets are cleaned with a mechanical sweeper. This machine usually has a number of brushes at the front which gathers up the litter and then sucks it up into the back of the machine like a vacuum cleaner.

FACT!

Belfast City Council cleans 954km of streets each week. This is longer than the distance between Belfast and Paris.

CHEWING GUM

A major litter problem in the city centre is chewing gum. The problem is worse in the city centre because there are more people about. Most people chew gum to freshen their breath but then carelessly spit it out on the ground. Getting rid of gum is not simple. It takes a long time and is extremely costly. The council use a special machine called a gum buster to remove the gum.

FACT!

Chewing gum is found on 90% of the city's pavements.

FACT!

Belfast City Council spends over £60,000 each year removing chewing gum from pavements.



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FACT!

It can take up to one hour to remove chewing gum from a small area of 1 m². This is around the size of your teacher's desk.

FACT!

On average a single piece of gum costs 3 pence to buy but 10 pence to clean up.

OTHER LITTER FOUND IN THE CITY CENTRE

- Smoking related litter such as cigarette butts and matches - smokers often use the excuse that there are no bins nearby.
- Fast food litter such as burgers and pizza boxes - these create an eyesore and attract rats.

FACT!

There are over 1,700 litter bins located throughout the city of Belfast.

If you can't see a bin, keep hold of your litter until you find a bin.



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WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF LITTERING?

- Visitors or shoppers won't want to come back. This will reduce the amount of money being spent in Belfast and could affect the number of jobs and investment in the city.
- The £9 million per year spent on street cleansing could be reduced if people simply used a bin. This money could be spent on other things such as playgrounds and leisure centres.
- People can be fined £50 for littering.

FACT!

Over 1,500 people are fined each year for littering by our litter wardens.