



FACT SHEETS!

YOUR STREET

Throughout Belfast, litter is dropped on our streets and in our parks by careless people. Everyday activities can generate litter if people don't take care.

- A visit to the local fast food shop can result in chip wrappers and half-eaten burgers being dropped.
- A trip to the local shops can lead to crisp packets and plastic bottles being thrown on our streets.
- People getting off a bus may drop their tickets adding to the problem.

All the litter that ends up on the streets makes Belfast look uncared for and messy.

WHY DO PEOPLE LITTER?

- People drop litter where litter and rubbish already exists.
- People also throw litter out of their car because they want to keep their cars clean.
- People litter where they think someone else will clean up after them, such as at the cinema or at a football match.

FACT!

Research by Belfast City Council has shown that laziness is the most common reason given by people littering in Belfast.

FACT!

Belfast City Council can use a car number plate to trace someone who throws litter from their car. This person will then receive a £50 fine in the post.



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WHAT EXCUSES DO PEOPLE GIVE FOR LITTERING?

People use a variety of excuses such as “there was no bin nearby” or “the bin was full”.

However, there is no excuse for littering. It makes our streets look untidy, is unsightly, can be dangerous and it is against the law. People can get a £50 fine for littering.

THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITY

Every day litter has to be removed from the streets. This is the responsibility of Belfast City Council.

- Belfast City Council has over 954km of streets to clean which is longer than the distance between Belfast and Paris.
- There are more than 1,700 litter bins to be emptied.
- The Cleansing Services Department employs over 250 staff to clean the streets.
- They use over 150 vehicles.
- It costs over £9 million to clean the streets of Belfast.



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GRAFFITI AND FLYPOSTING

Graffiti and flyposting also affect our streets, parks and open spaces.

- Graffiti is done without permission and is illegal. It can lead to a decline of an area and shows a lack of respect for the place in which people live, work and play.
- Flyposting means the putting up of posters on buildings without the permission of the owner. Like graffiti, flyposting is illegal and those responsible can be prosecuted.

ILLEGAL DUMPING AND THE CONSEQUENCES

Another litter problem in the city is the dumping of black bags and large items such as mattresses and cookers in entries and alleyways.

Enforcement officers look for evidence to find out who has dumped rubbish. If the person is prosecuted they can face a fine up to £2,500.

The Council offer a free bulky household item collection service. We will lift any large unwanted household items such as pieces of furniture, cookers or fridges.

FACT!

The council collects 40,000 bulky household items each year.



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YOUR HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Every house in Belfast should have a black wheelie bin where they put their general household waste. This black bin is then collected and taken to the landfill site to be buried. Households also have blue and brown bins or a black kerbside box which are for recyclable materials. Most shops, offices and schools in Belfast use big metal bins called Euro bins.

FACT! Belfast City Council has 36 bin lorries to lift all the bins in Belfast.

FACT! Each year the council empties 7.2 million household wheelie bins.

ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

To make people more aware of the problem of litter and to encourage people to use a litter bin, Belfast City Council produced a TV advert and developed an anti-litter campaign with the slogan 'Litter – don't drop it, stop It!'