



# LITTER MANAGEMENT IN COUNTY MONAGHAN

As a resident and/or business owner in County Monaghan, you have responsibilities and legal obligations towards keeping our county litter free.

Failure to understand or comply with your obligations could lead to an on the spot fine of €150 and/or prosecution of up to €3,000.



**The definition of litter is quite wide and extends beyond casual pieces of paper or cigarettes ends to anything large or small, which is, or is likely to become, unsightly.**

**Public Places** *If you are the owner or the person responsible for a place to which the public has access you are obliged to keep the place litter free, regardless of how the litter got there. This applies to any public place, which may include the precincts of a shopping centre, a school campus, a public park, a bus station etc.*

**Litter in the vicinity of a business** A Local Authority can instruct the occupier of a business to take measures to prevent the creation of litter by his/her business within 100 metres of the business premises. Such measures may include the removal of litter and/or the provision of litter bins.

**Private Property** *Any outdoor area on your property which is visible from a public place must be kept free of litter, regardless of how the litter got there.*

**Litter Black Spots** Where litter has accumulated on property for whatever reason and the litter is visible from a public place, the local authority can issue a notice to the owner or occupier requiring the prompt removal of the litter. Such a notice can also set down precautionary measures to be put in place to prevent a reoccurrence. If a property owner or occupier fails or refuses to do anything that has been requested, the local authority has the power to do whatever is necessary itself and require the owner or occupier to pay all the costs involved.

**Illegal Dumping** *The litter laws have increased the powers of local authorities to combat the problem of illegal dumping of refuse and rubbish. Where a local authority finds material that is illegally dumped and establishes the identity of the owner of the material, that person will have a case to answer without necessarily having to be caught in the act.*

**Major Events** The promoters or organisers of major events are required to ensure that they have litter control measures in place at the venue and in the surrounding vicinity before, during and after the event.

This applies to football matches and other social and sporting events at which large crowds attend. It is possible that this task can be undertaken by local authority, but the promoter/organiser must bear the costs involved.

**Mobile Food Outlets** *Operators of mobile food outlets selling fast food or beverages, or other outlets such as those selling farm produce are obliged to provide litterbins in the vicinity of their outlets. Also, they must clean up any litter arising from the operation of their outlets within a radius of 100 metres.*

**Dog Fouling** Dog owners must remove their pets waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner. This obligation applies to the following places: public roads and footpaths, areas around shopping centres, school/sports grounds, beaches, the immediate area surrounding another person's house and all public areas.

**Advertising Flyers** *The placing of advertising leaflets on car windscreens is prohibited.*

**Presenting your Refuse for Collection** Taking a few small precautions in the way you present your refuse for collection will help enormously in preventing the creation of litter. You should put out refuse for collection on the morning of the collection and not on the day or night before. The longer it is left out for collection the more likely it is to attract the unwanted attention of dogs, cats and birds. It is an offence to dispose of your household refuses in street litterbins.

**Who Enforces the Litter Laws?** *Local authorities are responsible for implementing the litter laws in their own areas. This means they are responsible for the prevention and control of litter and they have the power to take enforcement action against individuals who break or ignore these laws. Gardai also have the power to issue on the spot fines for litter offences.*

If you would like to report illegal dumping or littering you may have observed in your area, please use our free-phone helpline on 1800 200014. This is a confidential service – it's their name we want – not yours! Alternatively, contact the Environment Section by calling to our offices, by e-mail, fax or telephone.

## Causes of Litter:

The main cause of litter is people.

*Passing pedestrians constitute the greatest single causative factor of litter.*

The type of litter which is most prevalent on our streets is cigarette butts, sweet wrappers and chewing gum.

*Passing motorists are the second largest factor.*

The type of litter which is most common on our approach roads (i.e. usually for about 1 mile outside our towns and villages) is plastic bottles, aluminium drinks cans, sandwich/hot food wrappers and disposable tea/coffee containers.

## Litter at Bring Centres

**Bring Centres are a useful resource for local people for recycling glass and aluminium cans. In many cases, shoes and clothes are also accepted. Please ensure that you do not undermine your own recycling efforts by leaving boxes, bags etc at the bins. Leaving rubbish behind is an offence and you will be fined and/or prosecuted.**



## Problems associated with Litter:

*Litter is a form of pollution which is harmful to our environment.*

**Litter Control costs rate payers a lot of money-Monaghan local authorities spend over €1 million on average per year on litter-related activities.**

*Litter is a health hazard and can be a breeding ground for vermin.*

**Litter pollutes our water sources**

*Nobody wants to live in an area which has been branded as "seriously littered".*

**Litter has a very negative impact on tourism, prosperity and investment by outside traders in our county.**

*In addition to work undertaken by local authorities, many local groups and associations also spend a lot of time, money and effort trying to keep our county litter-free (eg. tidy-towns groups, residents associations, development associations, schools etc.) Littering undermines the efforts of many local people.*

**Monaghan County Council actively pursues illegal dumpers and littering offenders using CCTV and surveillance, so please avoid a fine and/or prosecution by disposing of your waste and litter responsibly. Please keep our County clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy.**