

UK Fact Sheet



- New research revealed by the Hygiene Council shows that Britain is the dirtiest country in the developed world.
- The amount of litter dropped yearly in the UK has increased by 500 per cent since the 1960s.
- A new incident of fly-tipping occurs every 12 seconds at a cost to the public purse of around £72 a minute.
- Nearly half the population (48 per cent) admit to dropping litter.
- An estimated 122 tons of cigarette butts and cigarette-related litter is dropped every day across the UK.
- Drivers are the worst litterers. Research shows that people feel non-accountable in a car and can't be identified. People who throw litter from vehicles can be prosecuted. Vehicle registration details are taken and the authorities can trace the owner through the DVLA.
- Britain's rat population has boomed to 80m due to litter meaning there are now more rats than people in the UK.
- Over 70,000 animals are killed or injured by litter per year in Britain.
- There are an estimated 10 billion plastic bags issued to shoppers that will take anywhere between 100 and 1000 years to rot away.
- Rubbish removal from the sides of roads is the responsibility of councils and highways departments who are demonstrably failing to keep up with it. In theory any one of us could go to a magistrates court to get an order for them to take their duties seriously.
- In some parts of the USA the fine for dropping litter is \$10,000 (£6,600) and this makes people think twice. In the UK it is against the law to drop litter (Environmental Protection Act 1990 to be exact) and the fines, which are no more than £100 are hardly imposed.
- A report by Keep Britain Tidy showed that a litter-strewn road will reduce house prices by up to 12%.
- Local authorities spend close to £1bn per year picking up litter – that is enough money to run 4,400 libraries, employ 38,633 social care workers, 33,200 nurses or 29,600 paramedics.
- 180,000 sacks of litter are removed from the sides of main roads each year.
- Evidence shows that the highways authorities consistently breach the Road Traffic Regulations Act and their duty of care under health & safety law to ensure that Britain's road signs are maintained, repaired, kept clean and clearly visible putting at risk safe driving conditions and enforcement of traffic regulations

DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?

Take a look around you and will realise it is everywhere and nothing is being done about AT ALL!

