MARCH 2026

Littering

Litter blights every street, park and beach in the UK and costs millions of pounds to clear up every year. Worst of all, litter attracts litter. If an area is already littered, then people are more likely to drop more litter!



KEEP BRITIAN TIDY says this is about more than simply getting people to pick up their litter, though obviously that is important. We must change littering behaviour by understanding why people litter in the first place and by developing creative campaigns and solutions.

They work with communities, school, business's, local authorities and the government to educate, innovate and inspire, with the ambition to improve the environment on everyone's doorstep so that we can all love where we live.



The KEEP BRITIAN TIDY campaign has been growing since 1954. Why Oh Why are we still dropping litter!!!!

Littering is an environmental crime; in England it is usually dealt with via a fixed penalty fine of £150 but can be punishable with a fine of up to £2,500 in court.

It's a crime that effects every community in the country and pollutes every environment from the top of mountains to the remotest beach

It makes places look unloved and uncared for, it increases peoples fear of crime, damages our waterways and eco systems, and injures or kills pets and wildlife.



Unless it is picked up, litter can, ultimately end up adding plastic pollution to our oceans, breaking down into microplastics that are eventually ingested by fish – **YES** the fish we eat. 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from the land. The cigarette butts and plastic wrappers dropped in our towns and cities; wash down our drains add to this plastic menace.

All everyone needs to do is put their rubbish in a nearby bin, failing that put it in your bag, leave it in your car or in your pocket and pop it in your bin at home.

Few people admit to dropping litter but it's a problem that everyone can see. All litter is unsightly and makes our local areas look untidy and uncared for.

Any type of litter takes a long time to disappear naturally. According to Keep Britain Tidy the estimated timespan for the following items to degrade is:

- Orange peel, banana skin, apple cores take up to up to 2 years – put them in your green bin to be shredded and used in compost.
- Plastic bags take up to 10 to 20 years – take them to your large local supermarket for recycling.
- Aluminium cans can take from 80 to 100 years – recycle them in your brown bin.
- Plastic bottles never degrade so put them in your brown bin for recycling.

There is no reason to drop litter, but when we see it in our streets, we can be proactive about it. Using the correct equipment we can pick it up and put it in the bin or we can notify Stockport Council, go to https://www.stockport.gov.uk/keeping-streets-clean/litter and report a street cleansing issue.

You can use this form to report issues with Litter, litter bins, dog fouling, broken glass, public toilets, leaves, dead animals on the footway as well as any dead animals found on the road (wild or pet animals)

For Fly-tipping go to https://www.stockport.gov.uk/start/report-a-fly-tipping-issue
It's an easy form to complete so please use it, the more we inform the council of litter and fly tipping the more they will be aware of the issues.

You can also call the council on **0161 217 6111** to make your complaint.

How can you help I hear you shout?
Make a start by signing up to the **Great British Spring Clean** - sign up at www.keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean

Love where you live
KEEP BRITAIN TIDY

The 2026 Great British Spring Clean runs from 13-29 March over 400,000 people join in each year and the more people who join the bigger the impact will be.
You pledge to fill bin bags with litter collected from your local area.
Obviously, you can do this each week in your street and pop the rubbish in your bin, recycle all you can from what you collect. Wear good gloves and use a litter picker.

It's our town so let's try to keep it litter free by being Local Litters Pickers
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE.