

'How Clean are Our Streets?'

Summary

2021-22

HOW CLEAN ARE OUR STREETS 2021-22?

Keep Wales Tidy has been recording street cleanliness since 2007-08



95.5%

OF STREETS GRADE B
AND ABOVE

Grade B and above means the streets are an acceptable level of cleanliness.

PPE (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT)



Masks were recorded on 8% of streets

Gloves were recorded on 2.4% of streets

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS FOUND ON 15.5% OF STREETS

FAST FOOD FOUND ON JUST OVER 1 IN 5 STREETS



DOG FOULING

DECREASED THIS YEAR TO 8% OF STREETS, LOWEST LEVEL TO DATE



ALL WALES REPORT 2021 - 22

keepwalestidy.cymru



SMOKING LITTER FOUND ON 74.6% OF STREETS

Summary

This summary focuses on the findings from 2021-22 and provides comparisons against surveys undertaken since 2007-08. It provides a snapshot of the condition of our streets.

The 2021-22 survey is the first to take place since the start of the pandemic. COVID-19 has changed the way people live, socialise and work which has no doubt impacted on the litter we see on our streets and in our open spaces.

While we have seen a positive improvement in some areas, the pandemic has highlighted other issues such as the littering of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The full report and breakdown are available on request – email leq@keepwalestidy.cymru

An overview of Local Environmental Quality across Wales

We independently calculate a Cleanliness Indicator for Wales. A higher figure indicates a cleaner environment. The All-Wales Cleanliness Indicator for 2021-22 is 69.8. This is a slight fall in the cleanliness level of 70.1 recorded in 2018-19 but remains higher than surveys undertaken between 2007-08 and 2017-18.

As has been the trend in recent years, the gap between the maximum (highest scoring) local authority and minimum (lowest scoring) local authority has widened.

Each street during the surveys is also awarded a grade for cleanliness. Streets are graded as follows with those graded B and above deemed to be at an acceptable standard of cleanliness.



This year the average percentage of streets graded B and above was 95.5%. This is slightly below the level recorded in the last couple of years but remains higher than the surveys undertaken before 2009-10.

Litter sources

Despite a steady decrease in litter dropped by pedestrians, it remains the most common source of litter encountered and this year was found on 84.2% of streets. Domestic sources of litter also remain high at 60.5%.

Business and construction litter have both seen only small changes in their presence over the years, with business litter remaining on around one in five streets. Consisting predominantly of post office elastic bands, cable ties and business fliers, 22.7% of streets recorded business litter this year, the second highest level to date. Construction litter was this year recorded on 14.9% of streets, amongst the lowest level recorded.

Litter types

When carrying out our street cleanliness surveys, we pay particular attention to the presence of some of the most problematic litter types. Here are the headlines:

- Despite significant improvements in smoking litter since surveys began in 2007-08, it continues to be the most prevalent of these litter types and was this year observed on three in four streets (74.6%). This litter consists primarily of cigarette ends but can also include other items relating to smoking such as cigarette packets, filter tips, and lighters.
- Confectionery litter, which includes sweets, wrappers, lolly sticks and crisp packets, is the second most prevalent type. Recorded on 47.6% of streets in 2021-22, this litter type has also seen a significant improvement over the years.
- Drinks litter, despite some fluctuations over the years, is also found now on fewer streets than in 2007-08, having fallen from 51% then to 44% in the most recent survey. In terms of the types of drinks receptacles found, aluminium cans continue to be the most prevalent, followed closely by plastic bottles.
- Fast food litter, which was recorded on 17.2% of streets in the first survey, is now found on 20.7% of streets and is the only litter type to have seen its presence increase.

Single-use items

With plans to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility charges and bans on some single-use plastic items, we wanted to gather more detailed information on affected items.

- According to our surveys, packaging from 'on-the-go' food and drink was recorded on 64.2% of streets across Wales.
- Among the types of packaging recorded, foam polystyrene from fast food was found on 1.7% of streets, foam polystyrene from other sources was found on 4.5% of streets.
- Wet wipes, which are all non-biodegradable, are one of the most problematic of all single-use litter sources. They were recorded on 11% of our streets, that's an estimated 17,300 littered wet wipes.

PPE litter

To understand more about the scale of PPE litter we collected information on the number of masks, gloves and other PPE littering our streets.

8% of streets surveyed had masks present, with gloves and other PPE combined present on 2.5% of streets. The extent of the litter items was vast with multiple items littered in some areas. We estimate that 10,666 masks may currently litter the streets of Wales.



Other issues affecting environmental quality

Litter is not the only issue to have an impact on street quality; there are a number of other problems that affect how people feel about their local area. We call these Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs).

- Dog fouling was found on 8% of streets, its lowest level to date.
- Graffiti has also seen a steady decrease since 2007-08, dropping from 12.3% of streets to 4.4% of streets.
- Fly-posting and vandalism are only occasionally seen and both have seen relatively small changes over the years, with current figures for fly-posting at 2.4% and vandalism at 0.5%.
- Detritus and weeds have always been the most common AEQIs found on the streets of Wales with both increasing in the last three years and consistently found on more than 80% of streets.

Visit the Keep Wales Tidy website for more details on our street cleanliness surveys, including a full methodology. www.keepwalestidy.cymru



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