

How Clean are Our Streets?

Summary

2022-23



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy

HOW CLEAN ARE OUR STREETS 2022-23?

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



96%
OF STREETS GRADE B
AND ABOVE

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

**SMOKING LITTER
FOUND ON 3 IN 4
STREETS**



★ New trend identified ★
Early estimates suggest
vape litter found on 6% of
streets

**7,450 WET WIPES
LITTERED ON
STREETS OF
WALES**

FOOD AND DRINK
PACKAGING
FOUND ON 65%
OF STREETS



DOG FOULING

DECREASED THIS
YEAR TO 6% OF
STREETS, LOWEST
LEVEL TO DATE



**ALL WALES REPORT
2022 - 23**

keepwalestidy.cymru

**PEDESTRIAN
DROPPED LITTER
IS THE BIGGEST
SOURCE OF
LITTER**

Summary

This summary focusses on the findings from 2022-23 and provides comparisons against surveys undertaken since 2007-08. It provides a snapshot of the condition of our streets.

Litter and poor Local Environmental Quality is a blight on our communities, can be hazardous to people and nature and impact on how safe we feel in an area. Bringing together the data from these surveys across Wales, we can better understand the condition of our streets, monitor trends and effectively target cleansing work.

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 2022-23 is 68.8. This is a slight fall in the cleanliness level recorded over the last few years.

This year sees the gap between the maximum (best scoring) and minimum (lowest scoring) local authorities narrowing for the first time since 2011-12.

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 96%. This is an improvement on the level recorded last year (95.5%).

Litter sources

During the survey we pay particular attention to the prevalence of the most common sources of litter encountered. 84.6% of streets surveyed had a presence of litter dropped by pedestrians - an increase on last year. Other notable sources of litter include domestic litter and unidentifiable sources of litter found on almost two thirds of streets.

Business litter, construction litter, animal faeces and glass have all seen a reduction in their presence this year, all recorded on fewer than 1 in 5 streets.

As with last year, Keep Wales Tidy surveyors have noted whether the types and sources of litter found included items of food and drinks packaging. This packaging was found on 65.3% of streets across Wales, an increase on last year.

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:

- **Smoking litter** continues to be the most prevalent of litter types recorded and has increased this year following a number of years where its presence has been falling. Predominantly cigarette ends, this litter type also includes packets, filter tips and other smoking paraphernalia. Contributing to the increase this year however has been the presence of single use vape and other vape associated litter, in some areas this litter type was recorded on 6% of streets.
- **Confectionery litter**, which includes sweets, wrappers, lolly sticks and crisp packets, is the second most prevalent litter type, found on more than half of our streets.
- **Drinks litter** levels have seen little fluctuation since 2013-14 with this litter type consistently found on just over 40% of streets.
- Similarly **Fast food litter** has seen little change in recent years consistently found on 1 in 5 streets across Wales.

Putting a value on litter – Single-use items

Much of the litter found on the streets of Wales has a recyclable or reuse value. To truly reach our ambition of becoming a zero waste nation all litter types needs to be considered.

With plans to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility charges, bans on some single-use plastic items, and the announcement of a deposit return scheme, we have collected data on key items to help monitor the success of the schemes.

- According to our surveys, packaging from 'on-the-go' food and drink was recorded on 65.3% of streets across Wales. 25% higher than current estimates.
- Aluminium cans are the most commonly littered drink receptacle recorded on the streets of Wales and can be found on 14% of our streets. Plastic bottles are also problematic on more than 12%. Where these items are recorded, they can often be found in high quantities with their visual presence greatly impacting on the look and feel of an area.
- Wet-wipes were recorded on almost 10% of streets across Wales, which is slightly lower than last year but it is worth noting that this represents a legacy of the previously recorded PPE litter which was recorded in the COVID-19 pandemic and is therefore considered as a

'new' or additional litter type previously not seen on this scale. Their presence is extensive and data on their quantities shows that over 7,450 wet wipes may be littered on our streets alone at any time.

- Batteries recorded for the first time can be found on 1.8% of streets which is high given their potential harm, either through toxic chemicals or fire risk. Also recorded for the first time was the presence of fabric textile products which have been recorded on 2.8% of streets.

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 just 6% of streets, the lowest level since we began surveying in 2007-08.
- **Graffiti and Fly-Posting** are recorded on 6.7% and 4.4% of streets. The highest recorded levels for a number of years
- **Vandalism** is only occasionally seen and across Wales is present on fewer than 1 in 100 streets.
- **Detritus and weeds** have always been the most common AEQIs found on the streets of Wales and are now at their highest ever recorded level (both on 96.1% of streets).

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

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





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