

WHEN CAN A LITTER INFRINGEMENT NOTICE BE ISSUED?

Litter Control Officers have the power to issue infringement notices if they find a person depositing litter (whether inadvertently or otherwise) or they have good cause to believe that person has committed an offence. The infringement notice states details of the alleged offence and the fee payable. The fee must be paid no later than 28 days after the date shown on the notice.

If you wish to seek further information, or raise any matter relating to the circumstances of the alleged offence, you should do so in writing to Hutt City Council on or before the due date on which the fee is payable. The Summary of Rights is printed on the back of the Litter Infringement Notice and outlines the course of action if you deny liability or request a hearing to be considered by the Court. If the fee is not paid and a hearing not requested, a reminder notice will be sent. If no response is received within 28 days of the reminder notice being sent, then Court proceedings will begin.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE LITTERING OR FIND DUMPED RUBBISH?

If you see someone littering take note of the location, the time of the incident, a description of the litter, and any other circumstances such as a vehicle registration number and description of the alleged offender. If you find any dumped rubbish, please report the location and a description of the rubbish to Council.



CONTACT US

We encourage you to report litter, rubbish dumping or littering incidents if you see them.

Please note as much information as possible such as time, date, location and a good description of the incident.

T: 04 570 6666

E: contact@huttcity.govt.nz

W: huttcity.govt.nz

LITTER

AND LITTER INFRINGEMENT NOTICES



A LITTER-FREE ENVIRONMENT

For residents and visitors to Lower Hutt it is important to have a clean, litter-free and attractive environment.

Hutt City Council has passed a special resolution for the issue of Litter Infringement Notices to a maximum fee of \$400.

WHAT IS LITTER?

The definition of litter under the Litter Act 1979 includes any refuse, rubbish, animal remains, glass, metal, garbage, debris, dirt, filth, rubble, ballast, stones, earth, or waste matter, or anything of a like nature. There is a special category of litter considered to be dangerous, toxic and/or infectious, including glass bottles (broken or not).

WHAT IS LITTERING?

It is an offence for any person to deposit litter and to leave it in a public place or on private land without the owner's consent. Littering is a term to describe the activity of depositing rubbish or dumping waste material illegally.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR LITTERING?

Amendments made to the Litter Act 1979 have increased the overall penalties for littering. This includes any infringement notice not to exceed \$400. For cases taken to Court the maximum fine is \$5000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a body corporate. For litter considered to be dangerous, toxic and/or infectious the maximum fine is \$7500 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month. In the case of a body corporate, the maximum fine is \$30,000.

WHAT ARE THE LITTER INFRINGEMENT FINES IN HUTT CITY?

In a special resolution passed for Litter Infringement Notices, three levels of infringement fees were approved:

Minor littering \$100

One-off incidents involving cigarette butts, wrappers/papers, chewing gum, small food waste, take-away food/drink containers, fish-and-chip papers, plastic drinks bottle(s) and aluminium cans.

Medium littering \$200

Single used disposable nappy or nappies, small dumping (eg. up to four supermarket shopping bags), domestic household refuse/commercial waste in or by public litter bins, small dumping in or by commercial waste bins/clothing bins/recycling stations, persistent use of unofficial (non-Council) refuse bags, and small insecure load from truck or trailer.

Major littering \$400

Household waste, commercial waste, green waste, car parts, glass or any other litter as defined in the Litter Act 1979 and not defined as minor or medium littering above. Note the depositing of glass or glass bottles (broken or not) is defined under the Act as a dangerous form of litter and is thus considered a major littering offence.



IS DEPOSITING CIGARETTE BUTTS CONSIDERED LITTERING?

Yes. Discarded cigarette butts are the most littered item in New Zealand. Since smoke-free legislation has required smokers to smoke outside workplaces and licensed premises, many more cigarette butts have been littered.

As a first step Council has decided to educate and warn people who litter cigarette butts that this is not acceptable. However, smokers who continue to deposit cigarette butts after being warned will be liable for the \$100 infringement fee.

