



FACT SHEET

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LITTER PENALTIES



LITTERING IS ILLEGAL

Under Western Australia's *Litter Act 1979*, littering is illegal. The Act authorises Keep Australia Beautiful Council (as part of the WA Department of Environment and Conservation), local government, police and other litter enforcement agencies to take action against those who litter. This action can be in the form of 'on-the-spot fines', or as reports to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council which are followed up by infringement notices being sent to the offenders.

Not paying your fine can lead to court action or result in your fine being sent to the Fines Enforcement Registry which has the power to withdraw licences until the fine is paid.

NEW PENALTIES FOR LITTERING

In August 2012 the Western Australian Parliament passed amendments to the *Litter Act 1979* which resulted in an increase in littering penalties and a greater range of littering offences.

How will these changes affect the public?

Littering fines will now cost more.

- Cigarette butt littering fines have increased from \$75 to \$200 for individuals and \$500 for corporations (businesses).
- Corporations can now be fined \$500 for littering offences by their workers.
- Fines for some offences have increased to \$500 for individuals and \$2 000 for corporations.
- If taken to court, maximum penalties for littering offences have increased to \$5 000 for individuals and \$10 000 for corporations, or in the case of offences against the litter regulations (in the table below), \$5 000 for both individuals and corporations.



Vehicle owners will now have to take responsibility for any littering from their car or boat.

In cases of littering from vehicles, where neither the litterer nor the driver of the vehicle can be identified, the person responsible for the vehicle (usually the registered owner) will be deemed to have committed the offence and will have to pay the fine unless they can identify the offender.

There is a greater emphasis of littering that is hazardous to the community.

A new littering category called "Littering that creates a public risk" will attract an infringement penalty of \$500 for individuals and \$2 000 for corporations. Examples include (but is not limited to) the littering of car bodies and car parts, batteries, hazardous chemicals or medicines, fridges and freezers with doors attached, tyres, lit cigarettes and syringes. (Details in table below).

What else do I need to know?

In Western Australia littering infringements can be issued by authorised officers that include: police officers, local government rangers and other officers employed by government departments that oversee the protection of the environment and waterways.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council, through the Litter Report Scheme, issues infringements in response to litter reports from community members who are registered litter reporters.

For more information on litter offences and penalties, please visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au or email kabc@dec.wa.gov.au.

To assist Local Government Authorities to promote the new litter fines in their community KABC has developed the *WA New Litter Laws and Changes Resource Kit*. Email KABC for more details.



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Appendix 1

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Offence	Penalty - individual	Penalty - corporation
Littering – cigarette butt	\$200	N/A
Littering – general	\$200	\$500
Breaking glass, metal or earthenware	\$500	\$2000
Bill posting	\$200	\$500
Bill posting on a vehicle	\$200	\$500
Depositing domestic or commercial waste in a public litter receptacle.	\$200	\$500
Transporting load inadequately secured	\$200	N/A
Littering that creates a public risk		
Animal carcass or animal body part (other than as cooked food)	\$500	\$2000
Broken glass, sharp-edged metal or earthenware	\$500	\$2000
Pill, capsule or tablet, or a blister pack that contains or is designed to contain a pill, capsule or tablet	\$500	\$2000
Container (whether empty or not) that is labelled or marked with any of the following: POISON DANGEROUS POISON CONTROLLED DRUG KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD BURNS SKIN AND THROAT	\$500	\$2000

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Offence	Penalty - individual	Penalty - corporation
Container (whether empty or not) that is labelled or marked with any of the following: TOXIC TOXIC GAS RADIATION BIO-HAZARD EXPLOSIVES CHEMICAL HAZARD FLAMMABLE GAS FLAMMABLE LIQUID FLAMMABLE SOLID OXIDISING GAS INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE CORROSIVE DANGEROUS GOODS	\$500	\$2000
Unexploded firework or flare or live ammunition	\$500	\$2000
Motor vehicle body or motor vehicle part	\$500	\$2000
Refrigerator or freezer with door attached	\$500	\$2000
Lit cigarette	\$500	\$2000
Hypodermic needle or syringe, whether or not attached to each other attached	\$500	\$2000
Tyre	\$500	\$2000
Battery	\$500	\$2000

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