



# Litter Survey



Did you know? According to [Zero Waste Scotland](#), we collect 50 [Kelpies](#)' worth of litter every year. That's 15,000 tonnes, or 250 million items – nearly 50 pieces of litter for every person in Scotland. Or in other words, 475 pieces of litter dropped every minute.

## You'll need:

- [Survey sheets](#)
- Pen or pencil
- Hand sanitiser

## Optional:

- Gloves, a litter picker and a bin bag

Taking part in a litter survey is a great way for people of all ages to enjoy some exercise while making a real, visible difference to the environment at the same time. If we know how, where and what types of litter are causing a problem in our community, we then have a better idea of how to fix the problem. Citizen science data from schools and community groups is also an important part of our research.

**First, choose an area of your neighbourhood to do your survey like a park or pavement. Then, measure out an area to do your survey for example, maybe 5m x 10m.**



**Mild:** Count all the pieces of litter you see and mark them on our survey sheet. Or, you could use our [litter scavenger hunt](#). On your next walk, count again and see if there are any more in the same area. What can we do about this?



**Medium:** Create a tally mark table with the heading big, medium and small for all the pieces of litter you see. On your next walk, count again and see if there are any more in the same area. Do you mostly find small, medium or large pieces of litter? What can we do about this?



**Spicy:** Count the number of pieces of litter you see using our [litter survey sheet](#). On your next walk, count again and compare your results. What type of litter do you find the most often? Why is it important to know what type of litter we find? Send us your results through our [Clean Up Scotland member's portal](#) or by emailing your survey sheet to [ecoschools@keepscotlandbeautiful.org](mailto:ecoschools@keepscotlandbeautiful.org).



**Extension:** If you feel safe to do so, collect the litter you find using a litter picker. Please do not touch litter with your hands. If you can, weigh the bag to see how much you have collected. Be sure to dispose of the bag of collected litter responsibly. Think of ways you and your family can encourage others to not litter. Some ideas include:

- Making posters for your neighbourhood.
- Writing a letter to your local authority to ask for help.
- Joining your local [Beautiful Scotland](#) or [It's Your Neighbourhood](#)

If you use this activity let us know! Share your results with us on [Facebook](#), on [Twitter](#) or on [Instagram](#).