

Understanding Litter Laws

Knowing and understanding Louisville Metro's litter-related ordinances and partnering with local officials can help reduce litter. Read through the ordinances below and contact Metro Solid Waste at (502) 574-3571 with any questions or concerns.

Louisville Metro Litter Laws:

1. **All garbage must be stored and set out in containers – LMCO 51.405 (A) (1)**

Plastic bags outside of the cart or dumpsters are not protected from animals that will get into and spread the trash, creating litter. Ensure all garbage is contained inside the cart or dumpster with lid closed.

Don't have enough room in your cart?

- Add recycling services which includes an additional container and pickup. This will reduce the volume of garbage significantly and it helps the environment.
- If you have city waste collection, [purchase an additional cart garbage cart](#).
- Contact your dumpster service provider to increase collection frequency, upsize your dumpster, or get locks for the lids to prevent unauthorized use.

2. **Carts must be removed from the alley/curb after collection – LMCO 51.405 (A) (2) and (3)**

- This reduces access for people who go through trash looking for identities, metal, etc. and make a mess.
- Removal from the alley/curbs keeps the area neat and clean and increases property values. Keep waste containers inside your fence or against a structure. Pick up loose litter each week.

3. **No person may cause a public nuisance by allowing the accumulation of waste – LMCO 51.510 (D)**

- Property owners are responsible for keeping their property free of litter from the center of the street to the center of the alley.

4. **Household and business trash are prohibited from public litter receptacles – LMCO 51.510**

- When bags of household or business trash are placed inside public litter receptacles, the container will get full too quickly and overflow, causing litter.
- Public litter receptacles should only be used for trash that a pedestrian may have for disposal.

5. **Littering as a criminal offense – KRS 512.070**

- A person is guilty of criminal littering when:
 - Any destructive or injurious material is dropped or permitted to be dropped on a highway and he/she does not immediately remove it.
 - He/she knowingly places or throws litter on any public or private property or into any public or private water.



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