

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 with any questions or concerns. (502) 574-3571

Louisville Metro Litter Laws:

1. **All household garbage must be set out in the cart provided by the Department of Public Works. No plastic bags containing household waste are allowed to be set outside of the carts. (LMCO Chapter 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.
- Request additional carts through Metro Call 311 or 574-5000. If you cannot afford an additional cart assistance may be provided.
- Contact your dumpster service provider to increase collection frequency, upsize you're dumpster, or get locks for the lids to prevent unauthorized use.

2. **All carts must be removed from the street or alley no later than 4:00 p.m. the day after collection. (LMCO Chapter 51.405 (A) (3))**

- Reduces access to people going through your trash for identity theft, metal, or other things and making a mess
- Removal keeps the alley/curbs neat and clean thus increasing property values.
- Always remove your carts or bins and store them inside your fence or close to your house in a safe and neat location on your property after collection. Pick up loose litter each week.

3. **No person may cause a public nuisance, defined as an annoyance, hazard, injury, or the unlawful obstruction of a right of way or other public or private property, including, but not limited to, permitting or causing the presence, or accumulation of waste, rubbish, junk, trash or non-operable appliances or equipment. (LMCO Chapter 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. **Criminal littering. – Local governments may classify criminal littering as civil offenses. (KRS 512.070 (1))**

- A person is guilty of criminal littering when he/she:
 - (a) Drops or permits to drop on a highway any destructive or injurious material and does not immediately remove it; or
 - (b) Knowingly places or throws litter on any public or private property or in any public or private water without permission; or
 - (c) Negligently places or throws glass or other dangerous pointed or edged substances on or adjacent to water to which the public has access for swimming or wading or on or within (50) feet of a public highway; or
 - (d) Discharges sewage, minerals, oil products, or litter into any public waters or lakes within the state.



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PUBLIC WORKS



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