



Fact sheet

f.o.t.g.

The Problem

Litter caused by food and drink being consumed outdoors seems to be rising. This type of litter is sometimes referred to as being a result of Food on the Go (F.O.T.G).

F.O.T.G litter can include packaging or unfinished food and drink. When people buy food or drink to consume straight away, they tend to move away from the place where they bought it (for example they might walk to a nearby park to find a seat or eat it walking on the way home from a pub or club).

Litter caused by the F.O.T.G not only looks and smells unpleasant but can also attract pests to an area, such as rats.

To try and tackle the problem the Government worked with ENCAMS (the charity that runs the Keep Britain Tidy campaign) to produce a Voluntary Code of Practice. The code provides suggestions as to how councils can work with businesses including chip shops, burger bars and larger commonly known chain restaurants to reduce littering.

The Message

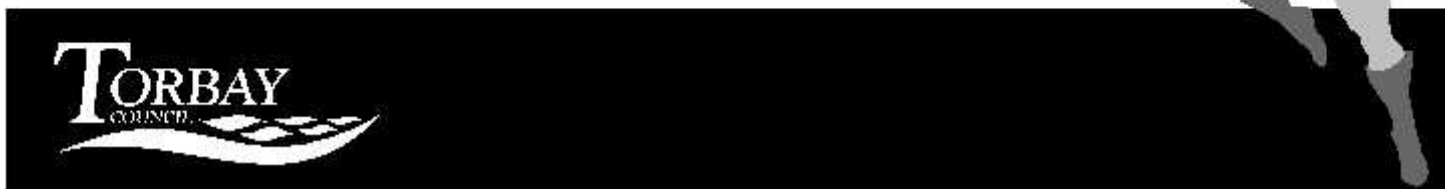
If you invited someone over to your house, how would you feel if they...

- Threw unfinished food from their plate, onto the carpet?
- Pushed half a glass of juice between the cushions on the sofa?
- Stuffed an empty crisp packet between the banisters on the stairs?

Lots of people own land and properties, but the environment in general belongs to everyone within a community. The environment should be treated with the respect that people would expect in their own homes.

Litter caused by F.O.T.G can be tackled by:

- **Changing behaviour**
e.g. placing anti-littering messages inside shops and running publicity campaigns.
- **Looking at packaging**
e.g. looking at whether packaging can be reduced and checking with customers if they need a carrier bag.
- **Considering waste and litter**
e.g. all businesses have to ensure that their waste is stored correctly and some have to keep the front area of their premises clear of litter. Businesses can also ask the council to provide a litter bin outside the premises.
- **Working together**
e.g. Torbay Council and a number of local businesses are working together to think of new ideas to tackle the problem and find solutions to improve the appearance and cleanliness of the local area.





Break the Rules - Pay the Price

Those that are caught littering may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice for £75. Fixed Penalty Notices are issued as an alternative to prosecution. This means that if someone receives a Notice and chooses not to pay it, they could face a higher fine or be prosecuted which will result in a criminal conviction.

Take a Stand

Most littering is preventable, including litter caused by F.O.T.G. By raising awareness about the consequences of littering, and encouraging people to stop and think about their actions The Bay Team hope to make Torbay a cleaner and safer place for local people and for visitors. Take a Stand encourages everyone in the community to work together to clean up Torbay.

Tips

The Bay Team's top tips for being litter savvy are:

- If you can't find a public litter bin, try to take your litter home and dispose of it there.
- Encourage your friends to dispose of their food and drink using a bin. If you know of people that litter, ask them how they would feel if someone treated their home that way, or how they would feel if they had to clean it up.

- If you know someone who owns a shop selling food and drink to have straight away, encourage them to look at the packaging they use and to ask customers if they would like a bag.
- If you know of a specific area where littering from F.O.T.G seems to be a problem, contact the Community Protection Team.

Join the Bay Team

If you have an idea as to how people could be encouraged not to litter and to respect their environment, contact the Community Protection Team at:

✉ community.protection@torbay.gov.uk ✉
Community Protection, Torbay
Council, 1st Floor Roebuck House,
Abbey Road, Torquay TQ2 5EJ

☎ 01803 208091

www.torbay.gov.uk/takeastand

