



Business Award



Simple measures your business can take to help create good local beaches that are good for your business.

There are plenty of reasons why cleaner beaches and seas are important to local communities, tourism and the success of businesses in Dorset and East Devon.

Sometimes the issues are hard to see. What we flush down the toilet and pour down our sinks can block drains allowing sewage to enter the sea after heavy rainfall, affecting the bathing water quality for swimmers and water sport users.

By completing this checklist and making a few simple alterations to the way you operate you will help create great beaches free of litter with excellent water quality which, in turn, will benefit your business. The scheme is also great way of boosting your environmental credentials to customers.

Every business can make a difference. Whether you are a café, restaurant, bar, bed & breakfast, hotel, holiday park or campsite, you can make a valued difference to your business, the wider community and the environment. Whether your business is beachfront or further inland, the impact on our beaches and seas can be surprisingly significant, and could even save you time and money.

The checklist will take around 15 minutes to complete. The options are straightforward (you may already have some features in place) and by following the steps below you will receive an award, display material and promotion to our Litter Free Coast and Sea members and partners through a dedicated section on our website, e-news letter and social media.



Five simple steps to take on your journey to gain your Litter Free Coast and Sea Business Award



STEP ONE

WORK THROUGH THE CHECKLIST AND MAKE CHANGES

Complete the attached checklist to evaluate your business via the online form.



STEP TWO

ARRANGE AN ASSESSMENT

Arrange a time for one of our assessors to visit and check the changes you have made. Don't worry if you cannot do all of the modifications; provided you have made some changes you will receive the award.



STEP FOUR

GET PROMOTED TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We will celebrate the changes you have made through a dedicated page on our website, social media and our e-newsletter shared with those who support Litter Free Coast and Sea.



STEP THREE

RECEIVE YOUR AWARD

Once we have checked the changes you will receive your Business Award and a window display sticker so people can see that you are an awarded business.



STEP FIVE

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Tell your staff, customers and everyone else about the changes you have made. Tweet your success stories and feedback from customers and get your business known to wider businesses.



YOUR AWARD APPLICATION

GENERAL

Action	Y/N	Why should we do this?	Suggested actions	Your notes – who will do this and by when?
<p>Provide Litter Free Coast and Sea leaflets and car stickers for customers to take home.</p> <p>Follow Litter Free Coast and Sea on Facebook and Twitter?</p>		<p>These actions will help and enable us to spread the word about the campaign further.</p>	<p>Have some stickers/leaflets near to till points, notice boards, welcome desks etc for customers or staff to take home.</p> <p>Inform staff/customers that they can learn more or find out how to take part in a beach clean through our website and social media outlets.</p>	

BUILDINGS AND DRAINAGE

Action	Y/N	Why should we do this?	Suggested actions	Your notes – who will do this and by when?
<p>Check all toilets, dishwashers, washing machines and sinks are correctly connected to the foul sewer and not to surface water drainage.</p>		<p>These are called misconnections and could mean that dirty water from your establishment is running directly into local streams and the sea.</p> <p>If you do not fix a misconnection you could face a fine of up to £20,000 from the Environment Agency so this is well worth doing.</p>	<p>Check your property using checklist on www.connectright.org.uk</p> <p>Contact your plumber and ask them to quote for corrective works.</p> <p>If you rent your business premises then contact your landlord to let them know about the misconnection and ask them to correct.</p>	
<p>Place water butts beneath drain pipes.</p>		<p>Water butts help improve bathing water quality because big surges of rainwater can fill up our sewers and cause combined sewage overflows.</p> <p>Having a water butt could also save you money on your bills. If you are on a meter you can use the water to water your café garden plants.</p>	<p>There are lots of different sizes of water butts and types. Some can look very stylish. Search online to see which one would be best for you.</p>	
<p>Fit cigarette bins in smoking areas.</p>		<p>Ashtrays are an important part of reducing cigarette litter. Cigarettes can take 3-5 years to break down in the marine environment so are not as easily biodegradable as people might think.</p>	<p>Install windproof ashtrays/small 'table ashtrays' in outdoor eating areas.</p> <p>Install a wall mounted ash tray in any designated smoking areas.</p>	
<p>Ensure there are bins outside to take rubbish away. Move if they are not in the right place and check they are fit for purpose.</p>		<p>Bins make it easier for your customers to dispose of litter, simple!</p>	<p>Install and maintain bins outside your establishment to help make it easier for your customers to dispose of packaging.</p> <p>Monitor bins to see if they are being used and whether they are positioned in the most convenient place for customers.</p>	
<p>Avoid pouring anything other than water down outside drains.</p>		<p>Any waste entering storm, roadside or outdoor drains may go directly into the nearest stream, river, beach or bathing water causing spikes in pollution.</p>	<p>Ensure waste is correctly poured down 'foul' drains, avoiding cleaning waste, fats and oils and other substances.</p> <p>Put up our 'only rain down the drain' poster on cleaning cupboards or in areas where all staff will see it.</p>	



YOUR AWARD APPLICATION

TOILETS

Action	Y/N	Why should we do this?	Suggested actions	Your notes – who will do this and by when?
Ensure there are bins available in every bathroom.		These both help encourage your customers not to flush anything other than human waste down the toilet. The other 'unflushables' can clog up our sewage system and cause combined sewage overflows (dilute sewage directly flowing into our seas and rivers).	Source a few more bins for your cubicles.	
Display 'what not to flush' information (stickers or posters)			Display these stickers in a prominent location either on the back of toilet door or on cisterns. If the posters/stickers don't fit in with the look and design of your business we can tailor a design with your business logo.	
Are you using refillable shampoo, conditioner and soap dispensers in rooms?		This can not only help to keep costs down but also helps to reduce excessive disposable packaging in your establishment.	Source refillable containers to use in bedrooms	

KITCHEN

Action	Y/N	Why should we do this?	Suggested actions	Your notes – who will do this and by when?
Fit fat traps to dispose of all kitchen fats, oils and greases.		Fat traps help reduce blockages in the sewerage system. Clogged up sewers make it more likely for Combined Sewage Overflows to occur during periods of heavy rainfall.	You can either look into buying and installing a commercial fat trap or simply some old pots (pour the cooking fat into an old pot, let it cool and solidify and then disposed of it).	
Train kitchen staff members to safely dispose of kitchen fats, oils and greases.		Using fat traps also protects you from expensive plumbing bills to unblock your own drains. Do you like the thought of swimming with random peas and bits of meat? Thought not.	Hold a training session for your staff on what to do with cooking fat.	
Use strainers in kitchen sink/sinks to stop debris getting down them			Purchase and install kitchen sink strainers(they cost under £5 each) and a quick, simple and effective.	

OUTSIDE WASTE STORAGE AREA

Action	Y/N	Why should we do this?	Suggested actions	Your notes – who will do this and by when?
Ensure waste and recycling facilities are seagull and pigeon proof.		Seagulls and pigeon faeces both contain high levels of bacteria (much higher than treated human waste) and can therefore affect bathing water quality at a beach. Gulls are protected species but they also like picking at bin bags to gain access to food and end up distributing litter across an area which can be windblown to the beach.	If you have bins with lids it is important to always keep them closed or covered. If you are a smaller establishment that uses black bags then always put out your waste on the morning of collection. You can also ask your local council about getting a seagull proof sack or simply use a cloth to cover any bin bags.	



YOUR AWARD APPLICATION

FOOD & DRINKS PACKAGING

Action	Y/N	Why should we do this?	Suggested actions	Your notes – who will do this and by when?
Ensure that as little disposable packaging is used as possible.		<p>A plastic bag takes 450 years to breakdown in the marine environment and drinks cans take 100 years.</p> <p>Items such as sugar sachets, napkins, straws and drink stirrers are all very light and easily become accidental windblown litter at the beach.</p>	<p>Replace salt and sugar sachets with salt and sugar pots/dispensers in the bar or on the tables.</p> <p>Have metal spoons available at the bar for take away customers to stir in sugar rather than handing out disposable stirrers.</p> <p>Hand out a napkin/straw only when needed.</p> <p>Ask customers whether they need a bag rather than automatically handing them one.</p> <p>Source biodegradable packaging.</p> <p>Check if you are over packaging? – Polystyrene packaging and excessive layers of packaging contribute to overflowing beach bins.</p>	
Encourage people to dispose of their take away food packaging responsibly.		A friendly reminder from the sales person along the lines of "We hope you enjoy your coffee. There are bins outside for you to dispose of your cup once you have finished" can make a big difference in littering behaviour.	<p>Create a slogan for your staff to use that gently reminds customers to love the beach and use the bins to dispose of their takeaway food/drinks.</p> <p>Print off and display the attached takeaway food poster for customers.</p>	
Clear outside tables promptly.		Clearing away outside tables of left over food as quickly as possible helps prevent seagulls attacking customers eating outside and helps prevent seagull poo affecting the bathing water quality.	Explain to staff why it is important for them to clear outside tables as quickly as possible.	



FINISHED!

Thank you for completing the application.
We just need a few details from you to complete the award.



Name of your business			
Contact name			
Email			
Phone Number			
Suitable time and date for assessment from a member of the Litter Free Coast and Sea team.	Date	Time	

Please email your completed application to us at litterfreecoastsea@dorsetcc.gov.uk. To do this simply open the PDF in Adobe Reader, fill out the highlighted boxes and save the PDF document. Then attach it to your email to us and hit send... simple!

Or fill it out and post it to us at: Litter Free Coast and Sea, Dorset Coast Forum, C/o Environment Services, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ