

Helsinki

Fees charged for works on streets and in public areas

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1 General

Under the Act on the Maintenance and Cleaning of Streets and Certain Public Areas (669/1978, hereinafter the 'Maintenance Act'), the municipality charges the party in charge of the work a fee based on the costs incurred by the municipality for checking the notification and supervising the work (notification processing and supervision fee) and a fee based on the temporary use of the area as a worksite, as a result of which the area is excluded from public use (area usage fee). The fees are based on section 14b of the Maintenance Act.

They are charged for works on streets and in public areas for which the street or other public area is excluded from public use. The amount of the area usage fee depends on the centrality of the area, the size of the worksite, the duration of the work and the nature of the work, which may be either excavation or other work on streets and in public areas. The processing and supervision fees are also determined by the duration and nature of the worksite and are based on the direct and indirect costs of the supervision work.

2 Area usage fee

The area usage fee is determined by the duration and size of the worksite, the centrality of the area (payment classes) and the nature of the work.

2.1 Payment classes

The streets and public areas of the City of Helsinki are divided into five payment classes (PC) based on the centrality of the area.

PC 1	City centre area
PC 2	Key public transport routes, traffic routes designated as busy, and Baana routes and main routes for cycling
PC 3	Other streets in maintenance classes I and II in the public area register and the Helsinki peninsula, green areas in maintenance class R
PC 4	Other built street areas in the public area register and green areas in maintenance class A and M
PC 5	Unbuilt areas

2.2 Excavation (KP)

Excavation work is subject to an area usage fee in accordance with the table below (€/day). Excavation work is defined as any work that involves breaking the surface of a street or other public area in order to carry out the work.

The total area usage fee for excavation work is determined according to the payment class that has the highest priority and applies to at least 15 m² of worksite area excluded from public use. In other words, if the worksite extends into an area covered by more than one payment class, the area usage fee is charged according to the most expensive payment class in which the worksite occupies an area of at least 15 m².

Area of the worksite	PC 1 (€/day)	PC 2 (€/day)	PC 3 (€/day)	PC 4 (€/day)	PC 5 (€/day)
<60 m ²	120	90	60	30	15
60–120 m ²	156	117	78	39	20
121–250 m ²	203	152	101	51	25
251–500 m ²	264	198	132	66	33
501–1,000 m ²	343	257	171	86	43
>1,000 m ²	446	334	223	111	56

2.3 Other work in public areas (AL)

Other work in public areas is subject to an area usage fee in accordance with the table below (€/day).

Area of the worksite	PC 1 (€/day)	PC 2 (€/day)	PC 3 (€/day)	PC 4 (€/day)	PC 5 (€/day)
Every 15 m ² , rounded upwards	16	12	8	4	2

The area usage fee for work in other public areas is determined according to the most expensive payment class that has the highest priority and applies to at least 15 m² of worksite area excluded from public use in order to carry out the work. In other words, if the worksite extends into an area covered by more than one payment class, the area usage fee is charged according to the most expensive payment class in which the worksite occupies an area of at least 15 m².

2.4 General principles for charging the area usage fee

The municipality charges an area usage fee for the temporary use of an area as a worksite within the meaning of section 14a of the Maintenance Act if the area is excluded from public use. An area is considered to be excluded from public use when it features a worksite and is not in a condition suitable for its intended use.

The charging of the area usage fee starts when the site is excluded from public use. The fee charging ends when the work is complete, a written notification has been submitted about its completion and the area has been restored in an approved manner and received.

The area usage fee is also charged when the municipality is the party in charge of the work.

However, no area usage fee is charged for work on a street or in a public area that is carried out to build the structures of a street or public area governed by a new or altered detailed plan for the first time since the entry into force of the plan. Furthermore, no area usage fee is charged for work carried out in connection with other street or public area construction work by the municipality.

No area usage fee is charged for minor public area maintenance work if the work does not require the area to be excluded from public use. Examples of such work include removing gritting sand from a street area or making road markings.

2.5 Work area

The area usage fee is charged according to the size of the work area. As a rule, the size of the area is based on the notification submitted by the party in charge of the work. If necessary, the size of the area can be specified further on the basis of observations made in the work area during the work. Changes can be reported and made to the size of the work area if the area increases or decreases in size.

The work area consists of the area required for the work, including the traffic arrangement area. A traffic arrangement area is an area required for the passage of worksite vehicles and in which the actual intended purpose of the area, such as parking or pedestrian traffic, is restricted.

An area used for worksite parking cannot be declared to be part of the work area. Instead, normal worksite-related parking, e.g. employee parking, must be arranged by utilising existing parking options.

2.6 Centrality of the area

The municipality is divided into different payment classes according to the centrality of the areas and their importance for transport. Higher area usage fees are collected in the city centre, in other business and service centre areas, along main transport routes, main cycle routes and key public transport routes, while lower area usage fees are collected in unbuilt, more remote and quieter areas. An unbuilt area is an area that has been designated as a public area in the detailed plan but has not undergone construction yet.

2.7 Moderation and deductions

No site usage fee is charged for any period during which the area is used as a worksite due to unforeseen reasons independent of the party in charge of the work. For example, such a reason can be a relic that was not previously known to exist and is protected by law.

The area usage fee charged for the work area may be reduced by 50% for non-excavation work insofar as use of the area has been facilitated by means of scaffolding that can be passed under or other similar solutions. Facade renovation projects are one example of such worksites.

2.8 Arrangements in the winter season

In the case of excavation work, the charging of the area usage fee may be suspended during the winter season if the party in charge of the work brings the work area into working condition. The winter season is from 1 December to 14 May. The municipality may decide to bring forward the start or delay the end of the winter season due to exceptional weather conditions.

The party in charge of the work must immediately report the working condition of the excavation work area to the municipality. If the work area is in working condition as approved by the municipality, the charging of the area usage fee is suspended. Being in working condition requires, among other things, that the area is paved with a temporary pavement material approved by the municipality. Bringing the area to working condition during the winter season does not exempt the party in charge of the work from their responsibility for the work and the work area.

The party in charge of the work will have until the end of the winter season to bring the site from working condition to completion. If the work is not completed by the end of the winter season, the area usage fee will continue to be charged. In such a case, the party in charge of the work must also notify the municipality of their need for additional time.

3 Notification processing and supervision fee

The notification processing and supervision fee is based on the costs incurred by the municipality from processing the notification and supervising the work. The notification processing and supervision fee corresponds to the cost to the municipality of one (1), three (3) or five (5) hours of work, depending on the duration of the worksite.

The notification processing and supervision fee is always charged once the municipality has processed the notification. The processing and supervision fee is charged even if the work is not subject to an area usage fee. The fee may also be charged even if the party in charge of the work withdraws their notification after the municipality has given its consent. However, no processing and supervision fee is charged for work that would not have required submitting a notification.

If a single project is to be carried out in several parts at different times, a single notification can be submitted regarding the work, with only one processing and supervision fee being charged.

The notification processing and supervision fees are therefore as follows:

Work lasting fewer than eight (8) days and not including excavation (e.g. skips and lifting work)	€80.00
Work lasting fewer than six (6) months	€240.00
Work lasting at least six (6) months	€400.00

4 Fees for additional work for the authority

For any additional work caused by processing the application, updating the decision or closing the decision, a fee of EUR 80.00 per hour of work, rounded upwards, is charged. Examples of such work include updating the dates or delimitation of the work on behalf of the party in charge of the work and correcting any incomplete information in the notification.

For any additional supervision work necessitated by non-compliance with instructions or decisions, a fee of EUR 80.00 per hour of work, rounded upwards, will be charged. The fee corresponds to the amount of work resources needed for the additional supervision work.

Additional supervision work can also be based on feedback from municipality residents. If a complaint from a resident concerns non-compliance with a decision or other kind of neglect that is the responsibility of the party in charge of the work, the cost of the work involved in processing the complaint may also be charged.

5 Notification obligation and penalties

5.1 Notification regarding work on streets and in public areas

According to section 14a of the Act on the Maintenance and Cleaning of Streets and Certain Public Areas (669/1978, hereinafter the 'Maintenance Act'), the party in charge of the work is obligated to notify the municipality of any work being carried out on streets and in other public areas. Following the notification, the municipality gives its consent to the commencement of the work and issues regulations concerning the execution of the work. The work may not start until the municipality has given its consent.

The municipality must also be notified in good time of any changes to the work. If the work phase requires changes to something affecting the use of public areas, e.g. the extent of the area to be used or temporary traffic arrangements, the work phase may only begin after the municipality has given its consent. The municipality's processing time may be up to 21 days from the date of receipt of the notification, even in the case of changes related to the work.

Based on section 84 of the Land Use and Building Act (132/1999), the municipality has the right and obligation to coordinate and supervise works in public areas under its control. Notifications about works allow the municipality to control the works so as to minimise any adverse effects on transport, safety, the environment and street structures.

The notification must be accompanied by an account indicating, to the extent necessary, the use of the area during the work, the duration of the work, the placement of the equipment and structures used in the work area, the temporary traffic arrangements with all modes of transport taken into account, and the party in charge of the work, the party carrying out the work and the professional qualifications of the parties involved. If the work is to be carried out in parts, the notification must specify when each area will be needed for the work. The municipality may also request other accounts and, if necessary, additions to the notification submitted.

Once the work is completed, a completion notification must be submitted to the municipality without delay. If the completion of the work is delayed, the party in charge of the work must notify the municipality without delay about their need for additional time, before the end of the duration indicated in the notification at the latest. If the work is completed earlier than notified, the party in charge of the work must notify the municipality without delay so that the work can be supervised and the area usage fee can be charged according to the actual time spent on the work. If the work is started later than notified, the municipality must be immediately notified of this as well.

The party in charge of the work is the person or body commissioned to carry out the work. For example, the party in charge of the work can be the owner of a detached house, a housing company, a network company or the municipality itself. The party in charge of the work may authorise another person, such as a contractor, to submit the notification on their behalf, but this does not remove or transfer the legally prescribed responsibilities of the party in charge of the work.

In this context, work means work carried out on streets and in public areas, e.g. the installation or repair of various types of wires, cables or pipes, as well as work such as construction or repair work on a property which requires the use of part of an adjacent street or other public area to be designated for worksite use. Minor works related to the maintenance and sanitation obligations of the municipality or plot owner do not need to be announced with a notification. Examples of such works include snow ploughing, anti-skid work or minor landscaping that does not prevent the use of the street or public area.

Any broken wiring, equipment and structures can be repaired immediately to prevent significant damage (emergency work). The municipality must be notified of the repair work as soon as possible and provided with an account of the work as required by law. Fees are also collected for the processing of notifications regarding such work, supervision and temporary use of the area in accordance with the fee rates currently in force.

5.2 Notification regarding concurrent works

If several parties in charge of the work are working together or simultaneously in the same area, they must agree among themselves on their responsibilities and obligations and on the distribution of fees. According to the agreement between the parties in charge of the work, a single party is appointed to be in charge of the work, reporting the work and assuming responsibility for fulfilling the obligations prescribed by law and the provisions set by the municipality under law. The notification must inform the municipality of all parties involved in the work. By submitting a joint notification, the parties will help to ensure that the work of both parties can be carried out within the desired timeframe. If the parties are also carrying out work outside the shared area, they must notify the municipality separately in accordance with the normal procedure.

If the parties in charge of the work do not conclude a mutual agreement or submit their mutual agreement to the municipality when submitting their notification, their respective projects are considered to be separate. In such a case, each party in charge of the work must submit a separate notification to the municipality and each party in charge of the work is separately charged the notification processing and supervision fee, as well as fees related to the use of the area, in accordance with the Maintenance Act. If a party in charge of the work needs to carry out work on a street or in a public area where another project is already in progress, the parties in charge of the work can agree to coordinate their respective projects. The municipality must be notified of such an agreement.

5.3 Penalties

5.3.1 Administrative coercive measures

According to section 16(4) of the Act on the Maintenance and Cleaning of Streets and Certain Public Areas, if non-compliance causes an immediate danger to safety, the office holder operating under the municipal supervisory authority has the right to take immediate measures to eliminate the danger. The costs of such a measure may be recovered from the party whose actions or non-compliance caused the danger, in accordance with the decision of the municipal supervisory authority.

According to section 16(1) of the Maintenance Act, if a party acts in contravention of the Act or the provisions issued under it, or fails to comply with an obligation prescribed in the Act or based on an order issued under the Act, the municipal supervisory authority may order them to fulfil their obligation under penalty of a fine or the municipality carrying out the unfinished work at the party's expense. Similarly, if there are special reasons for doing so, the offender can be forbidden to do something under penalty of a fine.

5.3.2 Criminal liability

According to section 17(1)(4) of the Maintenance Act, anyone who intentionally or negligently fails to comply with the obligation to report set in section 14a must, unless the offence is considered to be minor or the non-compliant party is ordered to fulfil their obligation under threat of a fine in accordance with section 16, or unless the offence is punishable by a more severe penalty elsewhere in law, be sentenced to a fine for violating the provisions of the Act on the Maintenance and Cleaning of Streets and Certain Public Areas.

5.3.3 Liability for damages

The party in charge of the work or the party performing the work is liable for any damage caused by them or their negligence.

6 Instructions for work on streets and in public areas

- [Excavation works and temporary traffic arrangements in the Helsinki metropolitan area \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Bicycle traffic planning instructions for work sites and events \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Use of signs urging vehicle owners to move their parked vehicles due to work or an event in a street area \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Read the guidelines for implementing accessibility on the 'Helsinki for all' website](#)
- [Temporary traffic arrangements related to lifting work \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Temporary traffic arrangements related to building construction \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Temporary traffic arrangements related to film and TV productions \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Temporary traffic arrangements related to snow removal from roofs \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [City of Helsinki building regulations \(PDF, in Finnish\)](#)
- [Temporary traffic arrangements in street and public areas \(in Finnish\), SKTY publication 1/2013](#)
- [Use of traffic signs on roads 29/2023 \(PDF, in Finnish\), Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency](#)
- [Use of traffic signs on streets \(in Finnish\), Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities 2022](#)
- [Structure and installation of traffic signs \(PDF, in Finnish\), Finnish Transport Agency 2013](#)
- [Closing and warning devices \(PDF, in Finnish\), Finnish Transport Agency 2/2018](#)
- [City of Helsinki environmental protection regulations](#)
- [Commissioning of road markings \(PDF, in Finnish\) 05/2015, Quality requirements for road markings \(PDF, in Finnish\) 38/2015, Design of road markings \(PDF, in Finnish\) 30/2020](#)
- [General terms and conditions for construction contracts \(PDF, in Finnish\), YSE 1998](#)

- InfraRYL, General quality requirements for infrastructure construction, Rakennustieto Oy. Available online in Finnish.
- Design card for an accessible environment SuRaKu 8 (PDF, in Finnish), City of Helsinki
- Traffic on a road worksite – road construction sites 11/2021 (PDF, in Finnish), Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency
- Contract documents for asphaltting and road marking works 2016 (in Finnish), work account; Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities and PANK ry
- Asphalt standards 2023 (in Finnish), PANK ry
- Maintenance of green areas (in Finnish), Finnish Association of Landscape Industries publication 70
- Invasive species Helsinki (in Finnish)
- General work account in green construction VRT 17 (in Finnish), publication of the Finnish Association of Landscape Industries
- HSY: construction of the plot pipeline, HSY: renovation of water and sewerage connections, HSY: work in the vicinity of pipes and structures (in Finnish) and HSY: connecting to the water and sewer networks
- Natural gas manual (in Finnish), publication of the Finnish Gas Association
- Know before you act (PDF, in Finnish), Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency
- Worksite water instructions for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area (in Finnish)
- Colours, structure and dimensioning of traffic control devices 14 June 2023 (PDF, in Finnish)

The logo for Helsinki, featuring the word "Helsinki" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is enclosed within a black outline that forms a speech bubble shape, with a pointed bottom and rounded top corners.

Helsinki

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