

Helsinki's environmental protection regulations have been updated – Checklist of the most important regulations

The updated environmental protection regulations of the City of Helsinki took effect on 15 July 2018. Environmental protection regulations complement the Environmental Protection Act, and their objective is to prevent environmental pollution. This bulletin contains a checklist of the most important regulations for property maintenance companies and building managers.

Yard and street maintenance 18, 22 §

- **Use irrigation with the street cleaner**
Irrigating sufficiently is especially important when removing gritting sand.
- **Leaf blowers must not be used for removing gritting sand**
Due to the noise caused by leaf blowers, you should always use rakes when possible.
- **Remember to observe peace and quiet at night**
You must not perform any noisy tasks in the vicinity of residential or accommodation premises and care facilities at night time from 22.00 to 7.00. This does not apply to construction or maintenance work related to traffic routes or community development, or temporary work that must be performed at night time due to traffic safety, flow of traffic or some other justifiable reason.

Composting and disposing of gardening waste 14 §

- Burning twigs and similar gardening waste openly is for the most part prohibited throughout the urban area to prevent smoke nuisance.



- Gardening waste can, however, be composted. As an alternative to composting, you can take your gardening waste to [Sortti Stations](#). Gardening waste must not be dumped in wooded areas.

Storage of hazardous chemicals and waste 11, 12 §

- Hazardous chemicals and waste must be stored so that they cannot enter the environment in the event of an accident. Storage must be organised especially carefully in important ground water areas.
- Dangerous liquid chemicals and waste must be stored in double-walled containers, in a container in a separate protective bund or in a storage space that will not allow the chemicals to enter the environment.

Washing vehicles, machinery and boats 8, 9 §

- Repeated washing of vehicles and machinery and the use of cleaning agents containing hydrocarbon solvents is only allowed in locations where washing water may be directed to the sewage drain through oil and sand separators. This also applies to washing boats, with the exception of sand separating.
- Untreated washing water must not be directed into the sea, open ditches, water bodies (e.g. rivers, creeks or lakes) or run-off water drainage systems. If a boat is occasionally rinsed with just water, the water may be directed into the sea.

Helsinki's environmental protection regulations are available in full on the [City's website](#).

Do you have any questions regarding environmental protection regulations or do you wish to provide feedback on them? You can use the [feedback section](#) of the City of Helsinki website.

CITY OF HELSINKI, Urban Environment Division, Environmental Services

