

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 concerning city district organisations. Organisations may communicate the regulations to the residents and operators in their area.

Organising events

- You do not usually have to submit a notification for small daytime events that do not cause noise disturbances to the surrounding area and that include the small-scale sale of food stuffs by private individuals or organisations to Environmental Services.
- Notifications of loud daytime events must be provided to local residents and operators in advance.
- When organising outdoor events, you should pay attention to regulations concerning noise abatement and waste management. Please read more about [noise abatement instructions for outdoor events](#), if necessary. Waste management at public events, on the other hand, must be implemented in accordance with the [common waste management regulations of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and Kirkkonummi](#).

Preventing noise nuisances Section 22

- **Respecting the right to peace and quiet at night**
Operations causing particularly disruptive noise are prohibited in the vicinity of residential or accommodation premises and care facilities during the night time between 22.00 and 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 during the night time due to traffic safety, flow of traffic or some other justifiable reason.

Preventing dust nuisance Sections 18, 19

- **Leaf blowers must not be used for removing gritting sand**
Due to the noise caused by leaf blowers it is preferable to use rakes.

Image: Jussi Hellsten / Helsinki Marketing



- **Irrigation must be used with the street cleaner**
Sufficient irrigation is especially important when removing gritting sand.

Waste management Section 14

- Waste management and sorting must comply with the common waste management regulations of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area and Kirkkonummi. You may compost garden, food and toilet waste on properties. A written notification of starting the composting of food and toilet waste must be submitted to the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY). The authority may provide supplementary regulations on composting, if necessary.
- Waste and waste management must not pose a threat (such as littering, noise or smells) to health, the environment or general city comfort.

Preventing smoke nuisance Sections 14, 16

- **Burning gardening waste openly is prohibited throughout the urban area**
Burning twigs and similar gardening waste openly is prohibited throughout the urban area to prevent smoke nuisance. Gardening waste must also not be dumped in wooded areas or parks. Gardening waste may be composted on the property or taken to a [Sortti station](#).
- **Burning wood in a fireplace**
Only dry, clean and untreated wood and wood waste may be burned in fireplaces. You may not dispose of waste by burning. Paper and cardboard may be used as kindling. The burning may not cause unreasonable smoke or smell disturbance to neighbours and the surrounding environment. Please read the [wood burning](#) and [firewood storage](#) instructions issued by the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY), if necessary.

Washing vehicles, boats and machinery Sections 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 the requirement for sand separating.
- Untreated washing water must not be directed into the sea, open ditches, water bodies (e.g. rivers, creeks or ponds) or run-off water drainage systems. If a boat is occasionally rinsed with just water, the water may be directed into the sea.

Storage of hazardous chemicals and waste Sections 11, 12, 13

- Hazardous chemicals and waste must be stored so that they cannot enter the environment in the event of an accident.
- Owners of underground oil tanks or other tanks containing chemicals must have the containers that are removed from use emptied, cleaned and inspected. A certificate of the inspection must be provided to the environmental protection authority of the City of Helsinki.

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

Image: Teemu Saloriutta / City of Helsinki Material Bank

