



WasteWatcher

Vienna's litter patrol for clean public spaces

The Vienna Cleanliness Act entered into force on 1 February 2008 and created the legal basis for the WasteWatchers. The act explicitly forbids littering in the public space, allows controls and regulates the authority of the Waste Watchers. They are authorised to issue warnings, fines and, if necessary, file a report with the competent authority.

THE VIENNA CLEANLINESS ACT

Areas the Waste Watchers focus on are littering in the public space, e.g. not removing dog waste, littering with cigarette butts, cans or packaging, abandoning shopping trolleys, illegally dumping bulky waste, and spreading food or excessive amounts of bird seed in public spaces (including green spaces).

Fines can also be issued for polluting bodies of water, fountains and ponds and soiling street furniture such as benches and other seating, advertising pillars, hydrants, playground equipment or bollards.



The WasteWatchers can issue fines of up to EUR 50. In special cases, a report may be filed, leading to a penalty of up to EUR 2,000. The WasteWatchers have the right to ask for identification and can order people to remove their litter etc. The fines and penalties collected are earmarked for cleanliness measures.

EXPANDING SERVICES

Expanding services such as dog waste bag dispensers, adding ashtrays to public bins and installing free-standing cigarette ash bins strengthen the personal responsibility of the population for a clean city.

WASTEWATCHERS ON PATROL

Currently, there are 40 full-time Waste Watchers and over 630 trained employees of MA 48 and many other municipal departments. The WasteWatchers patrol the city at different times of the day (and at night), mostly in teams of two, either in uniform or civilian clothes. If there are complaints by citizens about areas that are frequently dirty, they are included in the patrol routes.

The work of the WasteWatchers from 2008 to 2021 has been highly successful, as evidenced by their enormous popularity and the massive reduction in cleanliness offences. A look at Vienna's streets and public spaces shows that the city's cleanliness measures and stricter controls are effective.

FACTS AND FIGURES

ACTIVITIES 2022

- over 12,000 official acts
- over 13,000 informational conversations
- approx. 950 cautions
- approx. 10,000 fines
- approx. 1,300 reports

FINES

fine: EUR 50
penalty if reported: up to EUR 2,000

SUCCESSES FROM 2008 TO 2022

- illegally dumped bulky waste: -50%
- illegally dumped refrigerators: -60%
- over 100,000 official acts
- dog waste bags: 100,000/day
- cigarette butts: 128 million/year



CONTACT

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