

Anti-social behaviour: what is it?

The definition of anti-social behaviour in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is: behaviour that 'caused or is/was likely to cause *harassment, alarm or distress* to one or more persons not of the same household as [the perpetrator].' Within that broad definition, the particular types of behaviour which will be regarded as anti-social include those listed in the following chart. It is important to remember that this list is not exhaustive, and that much anti-social behaviour is contextual. Some of the more clearly criminal behaviours have been excluded as they are self evidently anti-social.

Behaviour	Examples
Harassment, verbal abuse, racial abuse	Whilst hanging around e.g. outside the shops, shouting at people as they go in and out; shouting at people as they walk down the street; targeting people with abusive words or actions on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, disability or appearance; engaging in racist or abusive graffiti
Criminal damage, vandalism, graffiti	Kicking out panels on bus shelters; setting fire to rubbish bins; using spray cans or marker pens
Littering, dumping rubbish and dog fouling	Dropping litter; not putting household rubbish into bins; dumping builders waste (fly tipping); not clearing up after pets, or just letting dogs loose to foul
Noise nuisance	Persistent, loud music; shouting; dog noise; late-night parties
Neighbour disputes	Threatening or aggressive behaviour in the course of neighbour disputes
Engaging in threatening behaviour in large groups	Whilst hanging around in large groups, blocking entrances or stair wells; being in a group and engaging in any of the activities included on this chart; or generally anti-social behaviour such as shouting, swearing, spitting, pushing or intimidation
Disturbing residents' quiet enjoyment through disruptive sports and games inappropriate to the environment	Playing ball games in confined areas where inconsiderate nuisance and damage is being caused to residents eg by playing late at night; skateboarding in places where a noise nuisance is caused or where there is a risk of injury to passers-by
Smoking or drinking alcohol whilst under age	Especially in large groups, where this can lead to aggressive behaviour and leaving large amounts of litter behind
Substance misuse and dealing	Including alcohol misuse by those over 18, which can be particularly threatening in large groups out of doors; aggressively offering drugs; hanging around to buy or sell drugs; leaving drug debris lying around, such as needles or burnt cans; leaving empty cans and bottles in public places
Joyriding, dangerous driving, thoughtless parking, abandoning vehicles	Riding motorbikes and scooters on walkways and in pedestrian areas; racing cars or bikes around squares; driving the wrong way down one-way streets; driving unroadworthy vehicles; parking vehicles in ways which damage verges or block entrances; abandoning vehicles in sight of the public; setting fire to abandoned vehicles

How do I find out more? For more information, contact the council's anti-social behaviour reduction team on 0300 456 0100 or visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/safercommunities