

The New Regulations on Balloons & Confetti

FAQ document



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1. What are these new regulations about?

- 👉 These regulations introduce additional rules to **reduce plastic litter**
- 🚫 Ban the **release of balloons** during open-air events (both public and private)
- 🚫 Ban the open-air **release of plastic confetti**
- 🚫 Ban the **import** for sale or distribution of plastic confetti
- 🚫 Ban **the use of plastic confetti** from **29 July 2026**

These rules are not meant to stop celebrations – they are designed to encourage everyone to celebrate in more sustainable and environmentally friendly ways.

2. Why were these rules introduced?

Balloons and plastic confetti often end up as litter, which harms wildlife and pollutes the environment – both land and sea.

What goes up, must come down.

3. What do key terms mean?

Balloon: Any type of gas-inflated balloon, irrespective of the material.

Excluded: Balloons used for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers.

Plastic confetti: Pieces or streamers made wholly or partly from plastic.

Open air: Any open space, including covered spaces that are exposed to the open air on at least one side.

4. When do these regulations apply?

As from 28 January 2026:

- Releasing any type of gas-inflated balloon, during open air events is prohibited, unless they are weighted down and under the organiser's control. See also reply to Q.5
- Releasing plastic confetti into open air is prohibited
- Placement on the market of plastic confetti is prohibited.

After the transition period (from 29 July 2026):

Distributing, selling, or using plastic confetti is prohibited.

5. Can balloons still be used for celebrations or during open-air events?

Yes. Balloons can still be used, but they must be:

- **Weighted down** (for example, tied to a structure or filled with a weight so they don't float away such as water); and
- Kept under the **organiser's** control to ensure they don't drift into the environment.

6. Can confetti still be used?

Yes, but only **non-plastic** confetti.

Allowed examples:

- Non-plastic, easily degradable materials (for example, rice paper, seed paper, or tissue paper),
- Natural materials (for example, petals or leaves)

 **Plastic confetti will no longer be allowed and will be fully banned from 29 July 2026.**

7. What happens if someone breaks the rules?

If the rules are not followed, fines and other penalties may apply depending on the offence.

- **Distributing, selling or using plastic confetti**
 - Up to €1,500 for a first offence
 - Up to €2,500 for repeat/second offence
 - Pay for any expenses incurred by the authorities (example, the cost of re-export of products and the cost of clean-up because of the use of the confetti in a public place)
- **Releasing plastic confetti into open air or balloons into the open air during events:**
 - €150 to €300 fine
 - €500 if another offence is committed within 1 year.
 - €3,000 to €6,000 if it causes severe damage or defacement of public places.
 - Pay for clean-up costs. If one fails to clean up within the required time, additional daily fines of €50 to €130 may apply.