

# Tobacco blunts and blunt wraps

Trading Standards information

[www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

## 1. What are blunts?

Originally the term blunt described a type of cigar without a tapered or pointed tip. In slang the term means a cigar which has had the filling removed and replaced with other substance - typically marijuana. Nowadays the term blunt also refers to manufactured rolling papers made from processed, and sometimes flavoured, tobacco. These are usually packaged individually and are also known as blunt wraps. These are not intended to be smoked alone but filled with other smoking substances. Some blunts are rolled or wrapped around a plastic tube. This tube can be used to pack the substance down in the burning end once it has been rolled up.

## 2. Main legal requirements

Blunts are made of tobacco so they have to comply with tobacco product safety regulations. These regulations require that blunts be labelled with;

- The same warnings as other conventional tobacco products (see section 3). These warnings must be irremovable and comply with colour and font specifications set out in the Regulations. They must not be hidden, obscured or interrupted by other information or the opening of the packet.
- A code or batch number enabling the place, date and time of manufacture to be determined.

Producers of these products must also provide the government with specific information about each product before 1<sup>st</sup> October, every year. If the producer is not in the UK then the importer of the product must do so. This information includes all ingredients, their function and all toxicological data available which for each ingredient shall refer to its effect on health and take into account any addictive effects.

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### 3. Irremovable warnings to appear on tobacco products

On the most visible surface one of the following warnings must be present; **smoking kills** or **smoking seriously harms you and others around you.**

On the other most visible surface an additional warning from the following list must be present;

Smoke contains benzene, nitrosamines, formaldehyde and hydrogen cyanide.	Smoking clogs the arteries and causes heart attacks and strokes.	Stopping smoking reduces the risk of fatal heart and lung diseases.	Smoking can damage the sperm and decreases fertility.	Smoking may reduce the blood flow and causes impotence.
Your doctor or your pharmacist can help you stop smoking.	Smoking when pregnant harms your baby	Protect children: don't make them breathe your smoke	Get help to stop smoking: ring 0800 169 0169	Smoking can cause a slow and painful death
Smokers die younger	Smoking causes ageing of the skin.	Smoking is highly addictive, don't start	Smoking causes fatal lung cancer	

### 4. Other trading standards requirements

- It is illegal to sell any blunts to anyone under 18. See our separate leaflet on tobacco products underage sales for further details.
- Descriptions on content and composition of blunts must be accurate.
- Advertising and promotion of blunts is also controlled. See our separate information leaflet tobacco products advertising and promotion for further details.

### 5. What happens if I supply blunts that don't comply with these safety regulations?

These requirements are contained in the Tobacco Products (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale) (Safety) Regulations 2002 which were made under the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

It is an offence for any trader to supply or offer, possess or expose for supply blunts that do not comply with the labelling requirements. The business owner will be liable for any illegal sales by employees.

On conviction in the Magistrates' Court a fine of up to £5000 or up to 6 months imprisonment can be imposed.

### 6. Further information

If you require further assistance on these requirements, or would like additional information leaflets, please contact us at the address given.