



HOW TO ORGANISE A LITTER PICK



Organising a litter pick is one way of bringing your community together for a common goal.

When a community looks good and cared about, residents are happier, there is a reduced possibility that antisocial behaviour will occur, and an increased sense of pride. Whether you are doing it as an organised group or on your own, here is everything you need to know.

GETTING STARTED

- If you are organising a community group to do the pick, think about the size of the coverage area and set a time limit –two to three hours of litter-picking is more than enough per session
- Consider inviting your local Neighbourhood Watch group to join in and even extending the invite to others within your community through social media
- Attempt only what is within your personal capabilities and be sure to take regular rest breaks and keep hydrated

• Remember to adhere to any social distancing government guidelines that are in place at the time

TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT WE RECOMMEND YOU PREPARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Litter pickers to protect your back
- Heavy duty gloves to protect your hands
- Bags to put the litter in
- Hand sanitiser to clean your hands
- Suitable clothing such as welly boots or sun hats depending on the weather
- And don't forget a drink to keep you hydrated!

Many local authorities lend individual items to groups. You can find your local authority contact details at: www.gov.uk/find-local-council

DISPOSAL OF THE LITTER

Speak to your local authority www.gov.uk/find-local-council ahead of your litter pick to get advice about how to dispose of the litter as every local authority has different preferences. If possible, separate the litter into three bags so items can be recycled:

- PLASTIC BOTTLES
- ALUMINIUM CANS
- GENERAL WASTE



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

It is good practice to complete a risk assessment prior to a group litter pick and remember to brief the people taking part about staying safe. To help with understanding the risk, we advise that you avoid:

- **Potentially hazardous objects, such as unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums and chemical containers**
- Sharp objects such as broken glass and disposable BBQs – these should be collected in separate containers not litter bags
- **Clinical waste such as needles/syringes – inform your local council and arrange for safe disposal**
- Hazardous areas, such as deep or fast-flowing water, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, derelict buildings, busy roads and electric fences (which are identified by yellow warning signs)
- **Lifting heavy items that could lead to injury. Consider whether it's practical to remove heavy items, or whether they would be best removed by your local council**
- If you are working alone stay in sight and earshot of others or let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back, and take a mobile phone



INVOLVING CHILDREN

- Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult when taking part in a litter pick
- **Explain to children which items are potentially dangerous and should not be picked up, and that if they are in any doubt, they should ask a grown up before picking the litter up**
- We advise that you only let children pick for less than one hour at a time

⚠ DANGEROUS ITEMS

IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FLY TIPPING OR COME ACROSS HAZARDOUS WASTE, REPORT IT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ON ITS 24-HOUR HOTLINE **0800 80 70 60** OR, CONTACT THE POLICE.

ENSURE GOOD HYGIENE

As well as wearing heavy duty protective gloves, we advise you to:

- Cover any cuts (however minor) with surgical tape or a waterproof plaster
- Keep your hands away from your mouth and eyes while litter-picking
- Wash your hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet



BEING PROACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY CAN FILL YOU WITH GREAT PRIDE AND BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN!

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