

Community litter picking

Health and safety guidance

Thank you for volunteering as a community litter picker. Your safety is very important and we have compiled this checklist to help you keep safe whilst taking part in litter picking activity.

We will provide volunteers with a hi-vis jacket, rubbish sacks and a litter grabber. Please contact us to arrange for the litter to be collected after the event from a specified location.

You are advised to assess the area for any risks before, and during, the litter picking session and only continue if it is safe to do so.

Volunteers are not working for or on behalf of the council and are not covered by its insurance policies.

Please follow this guidance to help ensure your own safety.

Useful contacts

New Forest District Council

Report fly tipping, heavy or hazardous items

Telephone: 023 8028 5000

Web: newforest.gov.uk

Emergency services

Emergency situations or reporting a crime

Telephone: Emergency 999

Non-emergency 101

Love Where You Live

General advice on litter picking in your community, success stories and special events

Web: keepbritaintidy.org

DO

Before

- Let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to be back
- Charge your mobile phone in case of an emergency
- Check the area you are planning to litter pick - are there any specific hazards you should be aware of?

During

- Always use the litter grabber to pick things up
- Wear appropriate clothing to keep you warm/cool/dry
- Wear appropriate footwear
- Keep hydrated
- Wear sunscreen
- Carry your mobile phone
- Be aware of other people, dogs and wildlife
- Cover cuts and grazes with a waterproof plaster

After

- Wash your hands
- Report any fly tipping or hazardous items, such as needles, to the council

DO NOT

- Litter pick along roads with a speed limit of more than 30mph and/or where there is no pavement or footpath
- Litter pick on steep slopes, cliff edges or in water courses
- Litter pick along the highway or highway verges
- Pick up needles or other hazardous objects, report it to the council
- Lift anything that is too heavy
- Work after dark
- Approach strangers or unknown dogs
- Enter private land without express permission from the landowner