

Community Litter picks

Community litter picks are a great way for communities to come together. This guidance is based on the advice given on the [Great British Spring Clean website](#).

Once you have chosen the area you wish to 'spring clean', ensure that someone has undertaken an assessment of the site ahead of the event date. Each site will be different in size, terrain and the numbers of people you would need to clear the area. As the organiser of the event it is important that hazards or potential risks are assessed and planned for. The types of things you will need to look out for are:

- Unfamiliar cans or canisters, discarded oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste including needles and syringes, remember bacteria or contamination in the barrel of a syringe will stay harmful for longer as it is protected from environmental breakdown, broken glass, discarded condoms.

You should also assess and be aware of natural and infrastructural hazards such as;

- Streams, even shallow ones, deep and/or fast flowing water, steep banks or hills, uneven terrain, sharp rocks, potential hidden holes or sudden drops in the, slippery surfaces, derelict buildings, busy roads, barbed or electric fences (these should be identifiable by a yellow warning sign)

Protective clothing is important for visibility and protection from illness, you should;

- Wear a high visibility jacket or tabards
- Wear the correct standard gloves, preferably stab proof made of rubber or heavy garden gloves
- Use litter grabbers to collect litter
- Have any cuts or broken skin covered with a plaster or dressing
- Keep hands away from mouth and eyes whilst litter picking
- Wash hands and forearms before and after going to the toilet
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking or smoking

Other hazards and dangerous items

- Avoid lifting heavy or large items, these should be identified and reported to Wiltshire Council
- DO NOT attempt to remove syringes or needles, take a note of the location and report to Wiltshire Council.
- Make sure everyone is aware of potentially dangerous items that the volunteers should not pick up. If anything, potentially dangerous, poisonous or hazardous are identified, these should be brought to the attention of the litter pick organiser who should not touch them but call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 for advice and collection.

Checklist

- ✓ Ensure the litter pick coordinator has completed a risk assessment and is aware of the escalation procedure for hazards and dangerous items.
- ✓ Brief volunteers of the area to be cleaned and any hazards
- ✓ Clearly mark any no go areas
- ✓ Ensure everyone is wearing the correct protective clothing and are placing rubbish in garden waste heavy duty sacks
- ✓ Children should be paired with an adult at all times
- ✓ Children should not clear road sides
- ✓ Dangerous items should be reported to Wiltshire Council staff and the Environment Agency
- ✓ The Wiltshire Council staff that can be contacted are as follows:
 - David Redfern – Head of Communities 07471 811813
 - Rhys Schell – Specialist Manager – Community Engagement and Governance – 07810 482630