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Litter-Picking Quick Guide

Whether you're planning to litter pick regularly or just do a one-off clean-up, use this quick guide to make your activity a success!

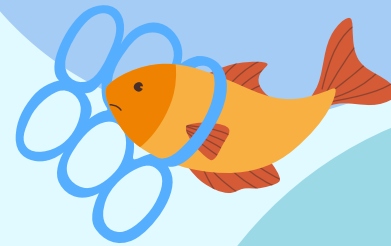
Health and Safety

Health and safety is very important and before any litter picking takes place all the risks should be considered to avoid any accidents. You should complete a risk assessment to highlight any dangers and precautions that need to be taken.

You can check out our [pre event safety talk](#) and use our [template risk assessment](#) to help get you started.

You should make sure everybody involved has appropriate equipment such as gloves and litter pickers. Many local councils can lend equipment to groups too. You can find a helpful list of local council contact details [here](#).

Make sure to carry a mobile phone so you can contact emergency services if needed.



If you are working in a group, designate a leader to be responsible for completing the risk assessment and conducting the safety talk.



Location

The location you choose for your litter pick should be easily accessible and safe.

Before you start, check the area for potential risks such as uneven ground or steep banks.

If you plan to litter pick on private land, ensure you have the landowner's permission beforehand.

If you are working in a group, make sure all participants are aware of any hazards they may encounter and how to manage them.

If you are working alone, always inform someone of your location and when you expect to return.

Avoid litter picking:

- In water or along the edge of a bank.
- During adverse weather conditions.
- At night or when daylight is fading

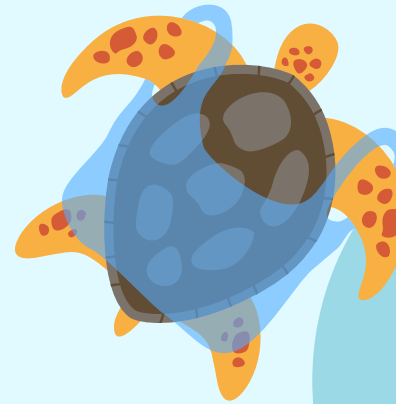
If you are planning a clean-up near a coastal area, please make sure to check the tide times in advance.



What Not to Pick

While collecting litter is important, some items should be left for professionals to handle. These include:

- Hazardous waste – Contact your local council for removal or report a pollution incident at 0800 80 70 60.
- Asbestos and fly-tipped waste – Asbestos is hazardous and requires specialist PPE for removal. If you find any, notify your local council.
- Dead animals – Do not touch dead animals. Report dead birds to DAERA here.
- Needles and syringes – Contact your local council for safe disposal.
- Unidentified or suspicious objects – Leave the area immediately and call the police at 999.



We encourage all litter pickers to recycle whenever possible.

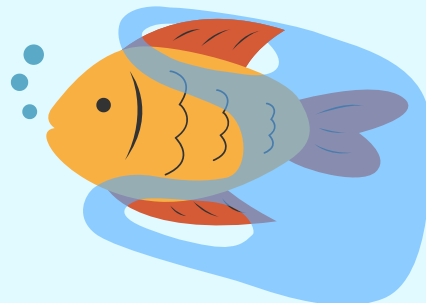
Each council has its own litter disposal guidelines. If collecting a large amount, contact your council in advance for advice.



After Your Clean-Up

Once you've finished your litter pick, don't forget to share your results! The data you provide goes directly to DAERA to help shape policies. Report your data on our website through the [Pride in Our Place Promise](#).

Or why not Adopt A Spot and use the litter log to track all your clean-ups? Learn more about the Adopt A Spot project [here](#).



Public Liability Insurance

Having insurance is not mandatory for our clean-up campaigns, but it is good practice for your group. Insurance helps protect both the group and its leader in case a volunteer makes a claim for an injury sustained while volunteering.

Setting up a policy for an individual group requires a fee, which may not be feasible for all groups. As an alternative, check if your local Parish, Town, or Local Council can provide coverage.

**Think before
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Happy Litter Picking!

This resource is for guidance only. Risks and hazards will vary by location, and it is the event organiser's sole responsibility to identify them and implement appropriate precautions.

In the event of an accident, the organiser should document the incident and inform Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful as soon as possible.

Please note that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful cannot be held legally responsible for any personal injury or damage incurred while participating in our programmes and campaigns.