

# Community litter picking

## Health and safety guidance

**Thank you for volunteering to litter pick in your community. The safety of volunteers always comes first. Please ensure you have read and understood the guidance below before starting any litter picking activity.**

Volunteers are not working for or on behalf of New Forest District Council and are not covered by the council's public liability insurance.

It is your responsibility to assess the area for any risks before, and during, the litter picking session and only continue if it is safe to do so.

Please use the litter grabber, hi-vis jacket and rubbish sacks provided. You must arrange for the sacks of litter to be collected by the council after the event from a specified location.

You must 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](http://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](http://keepbritaintidy.org)

## DO NOT

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

## 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
- Risk assess 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
- Ensure under 16yrs old are supervised by a parent or responsible adult at all times

### **After**

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