



Community Days

Waste Disposal Fact Sheet

The first, ultimate rule is that waste in one place is better than waste in thousands of places.



Make sure all waste collected is gathered in one designated location for pick up. Ensure your designated location is a minimum of 50 feet away from all waterways or drainage facilities.

Use the unique QR code/link or general QR at left to identify the designated bag pick-up location for your event.

Reach out to your local municipality/county/city to assist in picking up collected waste from your event. Ensure you give details on when and where you are holding your clean-up activity.

Cleanup work should be carried out as safely as possible! Think 'Safety First' while cleaning up the site and inform your volunteers of how to safeguard themselves and others. The golden rule should be: "If it is not safe, do not do it. If you are not sure whether it is safe, do not do it."

Being aware of various safety points not only reduces the risk of accidents or illness but also enables groups to work more effectively — thus increasing everybody's enjoyment and satisfaction. However, things can happen, and it is better to be prepared for them!

Pay attention to children's safety. The site may seem like an interesting playground to them, and they must be carefully instructed by their parents regarding hazardous objects and other threats. Instruct parents that their children are their responsibility, and they should look out for them with care.

Do not enter private land, hazardous areas, or unstable ground. Where signs or common sense indicate such an area, use caution, and stay away.

Preparations for a cleanup:

Ensure protection and safety during the cleanup. Wear gloves, appropriate clothing, and closed-toe shoes.

Stay up to date with the local weather forecast and prepare for what is coming. If the weather forecast predicts extreme conditions (such as storms, very heavy rain or wind, or snow), ask for advice from your local CCCD coordinator.

Have all important contacts and emergency numbers handy!

- Keep a record of the names and mobile phone numbers of all your volunteers.
- Make sure there is at least one fully charged mobile phone per group
- Know where the closest calling option is.

Organize work in pairs or small groups for safety and mutual assistance. This means that if anyone is in difficulty, others can help immediately.

Preparations for potential hazards:

Do **not** let anyone touch or pick up any unknown containers, explosive materials, or dangerous chemicals. The locations of such items need to be flagged and reported to the local authorities. Waste that could potentially be hazardous must **not** be collected by volunteers. Do **not** handle hazardous waste! Report it to your city/county authority.

Hazardous waste is waste that poses a direct threat and danger to human health and/or the environment. Hazardous waste can be toxic, flammable, explosive, and/or infectious. If you are not sure whether the waste is hazardous or not, always treat it as if it is hazardous then let experts decide later.

Some potentially hazardous waste:

- Clinical/medical wastes — e.g., used needles, gloves, masks, medicines, used bandages stained with blood or other body fluids (possibly infectious).
- Waste oils or water, hydrocarbon, or water mixtures, usually leaking from boats or vehicles.
- Waste from the use of resins, latex, plasticizers, glues
- Residues arising from industrial waste disposal operations — e.g., chemicals, insulation materials.
- Electronic and electrical waste. These usually contain certain dangerous compounds like mercury, lead, cadmium, zinc, and copper.
- Dead animals and body parts (not including food waste).

Emergency Situations

Call the emergency services if someone is injured. The most important thing is people's health and their life! What to do if an unexpected situation happens:

- Stop your cleanup work!
- Stay calm and ensure your own safety.
- CALL the emergency services! Tell them clearly what happened, where and with whom.
- Follow their instructions.
- Give first aid if needed, if you are qualified to do so. If your skills are insufficient, ask for assistance from the emergency services and do your best.
- Monitor the injured person's condition until the emergency services arrive.
- Make sure everyone else is safe!

