



Main Precautions for Safer Litter Picking (June 2020)

Getting Ready

Have you got?...

- ✓ Rubber or latex gloves
- ✓ Face masks
- ✓ Litter picking implements
- ✓ Rubbish bags
- ✓ Sanitising gel

Clean litter picking device thoroughly before starting out.

Background information check:

- ✓ Check with local authorities on how to properly dispose of collected litter & possible changes in waste collection schedules.
- ✓ When choosing your clean-up area, avoid busy & popular districts.
- ✓ Update on national/local health rules & restrictions.

While Picking Litter

Make sure to:

- ✓ Supervise children closely for their safety.
- ✓ Wear gloves at all times, also when using a litter-picking device.
- ✓ Put litter items straight into a collection bag.
- ✓ Avoid touching the exterior of gloves, which is where any contamination is likely to be, when removing or putting them on
- ✓ Disinfect hands frequently with a sanitising gel if no gloves are available.
- ✓ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water, when possible, and certainly when the clean-up is terminated.
- ✓ Wear a face mask, if possible.
- ✓ Treat fresh litter with extra precaution as it has a higher chance of being infectious.
- ✓ Leave behind unknown or suspicious litter items, do not pick them up.
- ✓ Collect only as much as you can carry home or to an agreed disposal point.

Post Clean-Up

Remember to:

- ✓ Bring the collected litter to the appropriate disposal point or bring it home.
- ✓ Sort the collected litter if necessary to respect the local waste management rules for collection and recycling.
- ✓ Safely disinfect and dispose of used personal protection equipment.
- ✓ Safely disinfect litter-picking devices you may have used.
- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly.

Communicate:

- ✓ If possible, share your experience of safe litter picking with friends and “followers” on social media.
- ✓ Consider encouraging other individuals or small groups to do go out and do the same.
- ✓ You can always refer potential volunteers to these common European guidelines for safe litter picking.