

How to run a community litter clean-up



What resources you will need:

- Litter bags /gloves
- Protective foot wear and clothing/sunscreen/hats
- People
- Clean-up site

Other things to consider:

- You may need to let your local government/shire know of your plans to clean up, so they are aware of the activity. In some cases, they may help to collect full litter bags.
- Consider tapping into established anti-litter organisations like www.cleanup.org.au or Keep Australia Beautiful state offices (www.kab.org.au) that have programs to assist volunteers and offer insurance and resources.
- Don't forget you post clean-up celebrations! Organise some food and drinks to celebrate your efforts.
- Take a photo and share it with your local community newspapers or share it on the Neighbourhood Connect [Facebook page](#).

Steps: Before the clean-up:

1. Decide on the area you want to clean up. It could be your local streets, a park or local beach that is important to your neighbourhood members. It's best to avoid main roads with busy traffic.
2. Set a date and time that will be most comfortable for volunteers. Avoid the very hot weather, opt for weekend mornings or afternoons and make it for no longer than an hour. If you have group members email addresses, consider using tools like Doodle to create a [poll](#) to get a consensus on the best dates and times.
3. Invite your group members and ask them to bring friends or spread the word. This could be done via email if you have an established group.
4. Gather resources. A roll of heavy-duty garbage bags and disposable gloves from the supermarket, or in some cases, these items can be provided via agencies that assist volunteer clean-ups (See *above).
5. Set a meeting spot and communicate that to members. Schedule to finish in a spot such as a park or ask for a volunteer to provide their backyard as a venue. Ask for volunteers to bring some shared food and thermos for a post clean-up cuppa.

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6. Instruct your group to wear closed in shoes, protective gloves if they have them and sunscreen and a hat. Personal safety is a priority, so make it clear people should look after their own safety and that of their children by avoiding hazards.
7. Do a quick check of the clean-up site and assess any risks that volunteers should be aware of and make note of these for a pre-clean-up briefing.
8. If you think there will be lots of full bags to manage, make a plan for group members to take a bag each back to their own household bins or discuss bags pick up and disposal with your local council.

On the day:

1. Gather at meeting spot and dispense bags and gloves.
2. Remind participants to look out for possible hazards such as snakes, syringes, broken glass, insects, traffic and other risks you have noted at the pre-clean-up site check. Nominate a leader to manage any hazards on the way, such as found syringes or broken glass.
3. Set off in pairs or as a group and arrange a time to meet back at the starting point after the clean-up.
4. Dispose bags carefully after the event (see point 8 above).
5. Celebrate your efforts with a shared morning/afternoon tea and give yourselves a pat on the back for keeping your neighbourhood tidy!



Disclaimer: This is a suggested format only. Neighbourhood Connect Inc. accepts no responsibility or liability for groups undertaking litter clean-ups and they do so at their own risk.

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