



South Derbyshire Volunteer Litter Heroes Litter Pick Health & Safety Guidance



Avoid danger. Make sure all volunteers, particularly children, are aware of what not to pick up.

Noxious and Dangerous Materials

You may find the following materials during a litter pick. They should be treated with caution:

- **Broken glass and metal items** – remove using a litter picker or a brush and shovel, avoiding contact by hand, and dispose of in a sturdy container.
- **Drug related litter/hypodermics** – these should not be moved under any circumstance. Instead note the location and report to the Council for specialist removal.
- **Suspect materials and fly tipping** – items that are possibly dangerous such as unknown liquids in containers, building materials, asbestos, or fly-tipping should not be moved by volunteers. Instead, note the location, take photographs if possible and report it to the Council for specialist removal.
- **Dog mess** – should not be moved, note the location and report to the council for removal.
- **Graffiti** - needs to be left alone, note the location and report to the Council for removal
- **Dead or live animals** - do not attempt to remove or untangle. If dead report note location and report to the Council for removal. If alive report to the RSPCA. (see contact details below)

General Health & Safety

- Avoid direct contact with litter at all times.
- Be aware of your environment and do not put yourself at risk whilst picking litter.
- Do not pick when visibility is poor and only pick in daylight hours.
- Clean hands thoroughly before eating food or drinking.
- Rubbish should not be compressed using hands or feet as this can accidentally puncture the skin.
- Avoid contact with the body when carrying plastic bin bags.
- Ensure any cuts or abrasions are clean and covered with a waterproof plaster.
- Be aware of traffic at all times and stop picking to allow any vehicle to pass.
- Do not overfill bin bags and avoid lifting heavy objects or sacks alone.
- Do not confront anyone you see littering.
- Go beyond the agreed litter pick area.

Contact Details

In an emergency Dial 999 (24 hours) Emergency Services, non-emergency police number is 101

01283 595795 South Derbyshire District Council's Clean Team to report dog fouling, hazardous substances, needles, drug paraphernalia, or other hazardous items. You can also email waste.cleansing@southderbyshire.gov.uk.

01283 595795 South Derbyshire District Council's Clean Team to report dead animals. You can also email waste.cleansing@southderbyshire.gov.uk.

0300 123 4999 (24 hours) RSPCA to report any kind of incident where help is needed with an animal in any location.

If there is a Public Space Protection Order in place for Anti-Social Behaviour which includes street drinkers and drug users, anyone seen to be under the influence of drugs and alcohol and causing any ASB should be reported to the Police by calling 101.



Code of Conduct

Be considerate. All adult and young volunteers are expected to adhere to this Code at all times whilst participating in the litter pick. Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the area.

Do

- treat everyone with dignity and respect
- keep the leader informed if you need to leave the area
- remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- make sure you do not swear or use offensive language
- respect the area and behave appropriately
- set an example you would wish others to follow
- treat all people equally – show no favouritism
- respect a people's right to personal privacy
- allow people to talk about any concerns they may have but make them aware that depending on the information given you may have to take the matter further.

Do Not

- smoke
- consume alcohol or use drugs
- make suggestive remarks or threats to another person, even in fun
- let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported
- swear or use drug language
- disturb animals or damage plants
- climb on walls, street furniture or trees
- remove "natural" rubbish like logs, stones and weeds – they can be "home" to animals

Report It

Please use the form below to report items that are hazardous or too large / heavy to move.

Description	Location	Other comments

