

Hosting a Litter Pickup



Thank you for your interest in hosting a cleanup to make your community cleaner, greener, and more beautiful! We are happy to support your event by providing litter pick up supplies and information on how to best host a cleanup. Please read this packet for a step by step guide to a successful cleanup!

You can reach Keep Knoxville Beautiful staff at 865-521-6957 or info@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org.

Planning and Organizing a Cleanup

Litter cleanups are the CLEAN aspect of our mission. Leading a cleanup is easy! Here are a few steps you can follow to make sure everything is in place.

Before the Cleanup:

1. Find a site appropriate for your volunteers.
 - a. KKB staff can help you pick a location if needed.
2. Determine where volunteers will park and meet.
3. Identify how many volunteers will be there and how long the event will last.
4. Pick up equipment from KKB: we provide gloves, litter pickers, trash bags, and safety vests.
 - a. Our office is located at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum (2743 Wimpole Ave). We are in the garage apartment behind the white visitor's center. Please let us know when you're coming by so we can get the supplies to you.
5. Determine a location for garbage disposal: are there any dumpsters nearby?
 - a. If there is, find out if it is privately owned or city owned.
 - i. If private, ask permission to use.
 - b. If there is no dumpster, pile the bags at an intersection and call the city at 311 to request a bulky waste trash pickup.
 - i. Tell the 311 operator that you did a cleanup with Keep Knoxville Beautiful, and be sure to write down the confirmation number in case you need to check on the status of the pickup.
6. Contact your group of volunteers the week of the event to make sure they are reminded about the cleanup details.

During the Cleanup:

1. Introduction to volunteers
 - a. Explain where the group will be cleaning
 - b. Go over Safety Tips (on other page)
 - c. Give an end time for volunteers to return
2. Safety: consider the accessibility and the traffic levels
 - a. Wear safety vests and put out signs if needed
 - b. Have a first aid kit and hand sanitizer
3. Bathrooms and water: if you think your group may need it, make sure there is access to bathrooms

- a. If there is a private facility nearby (i.e. church, restaurant, gas station) ask if they will allow you to use theirs.
4. Take photos and have fun!
 - a. Facebook: Keep Knoxville Beautiful
 - b. Instagram: @keepknoxvillebeautiful
 - c. Twitter: @Knoxbeautiful

Post-Cleanup:

1. Collect supplies from volunteers:
 - a. Please leave used gloves unfolded so we can wash them afterwards.
 - b. Please fold safety vests.
2. Properly dispose of trash bags or pile the bags at an intersection near the road for pick-up by the city.
 - a. 311 will need to know the address and intersection where bags are left.
3. Reporting: fill out the Cleanup Results form that was given to you by KKB.
4. Return supplies and Cleanup Results form to KKB office the following business day.
 - a. Please let us know when you are stopping by to return supplies.

Key Things to Bring with You:

- Sunscreen and bug spray
- First Aid Kit
- Hand sanitizer or wipes
- Water

Litter Pick Up Safety Tips

- Never work alone on the roadside. Always pair up.
- Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards (cars, poison ivy, sharp objects, etc.)
- Encourage volunteers to use the buddy system
- Wear gloves and thick-soled, closed-toed shoes
- Always wear a safety vest
- Bag small items that do not have sharp edges
- Leave large items out of the bag. Leave in visible area for pick up or if too heavy to move notify Keep Knoxville Beautiful of the location.
- Don't pick up hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, old batteries, dead animals, and other unidentified objects
 - When picking up needles, put them in a bottle and close the lid before placing it in your trash bag.
 - If a large quantity of needles, leave and notify authorities.
 - If something is labeled explosive, toxic, harmful, or corrosive do not pick up.
- Leave liquids in containers.

Be aware of mobile meth labs:

- Don't open or touch suspicious closed bottles.
- Call the police if you suspect you've found a mobile meth lab.
- Signs that a Mobile Meth Lab may be present:
 - Unusual odors (ether, ammonia, acetone, or other chemicals)
 - Excessive amounts of trash, particularly chemical containers, coffee filters, pieces of cloth that are stained red, and duct tape rolls
 - Evidence of chemical waste or dumping
- Common items in mobile meth labs are,
 - Sudafed packs
 - Aluminum foil
 - Cold compress packs
 - Plastic bottles with plastic tubing
 - Coffee filters
 - Batteries
 - Muriatic acid
 - Lighter fluid

Hazards Associated with Mobile Meth Lab Contact:

Chemicals used to produce mobile meth labs are extremely hazardous. Some are highly volatile and may ignite or explode on contact. Being exposed to the toxic chemicals used to produce the drug poses a variety of health risks. These health risks can include:

Inhalation: inhaling chemical vapors and gas from mobile meth lab production can cause shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, intoxication, dizziness, nausea, disorientation, and other respiratory problems.

Skin Contact: contact with chemicals used to produce mobile meth lab can cause serious skin burns.

If you find or think you have come in contact with a mobile meth lab, please notify the KCSO at (865)-215-2243 or KPD at (865)-215-7212