



Volunteer Litter Cleanup Guidelines

Thanks for your interest in the City of Bellingham's Volunteer Litter Cleanup Program! This program is intended to serve community members interested in organizing cleanup events in their neighborhoods. You can remove litter solo or in a group. We will provide cleanup kits for you to borrow, and City staff will dispose of the garbage bags once you're finished.

Organizing your cleanup

Follow the steps listed on the Volunteer Litter Cleanup Program webpage (www.cob.org/litter-program) to organize a cleanup. You can clean up any outdoor, public property such as sidewalks, rights-of-way, and parks. We recommend choosing an area in your neighborhood that you visit often. To ensure safety, please avoid:

- Encampments or areas with significant hazardous materials
- Sites near critical areas, along steep slopes, or with other environmental concerns
- Busy roads and heavily trafficked areas

During the cleanup, please remove litter from public property that is safe to handle and can easily be disposed of or recycled. Use gloves, litter grabbers, and garbage bags provided by the City to pick up and dispose of waste. Please **do not** remove sharp items or hazardous waste. Instead, you can report the location of these items using SeeClickFix (www.cob.org/fix).

Safety Tips

Volunteer help in keeping our community clean is greatly appreciated, but safety is our number one priority. Please read through the following safety tips before your cleanup event and use the safety gear and equipment provided by the City while working at your cleanup site.

1. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy closed-toe shoes, long pants, and appropriate clothing. Wear safety vests and gloves provided by the City.
2. Avoid sharps, biohazards, glass, and toxic or hazardous waste. Do not handle any sharp or hazardous materials!
3. Always be aware of your surroundings. Watch your footing and stay off rocky, steep, or unstable slopes. Keep an eye out for plants and insects that may cause injury or issues. Use caution around streets and be aware of vehicles. Always stay on public property.
4. Minimize physical contact with litter. Wear gloves and use the litter grabber to protect yourself from cuts, scrapes, and any contaminant that may be on the collected litter. Never reach blindly to pick up an item.
5. Keep your hands away from your face. Wash your hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer after completing the cleanup.