

TIP SHEET



# LANEWAY SPRING CLEAN-UP

Getting together with your community once a year to conduct regular maintenance is a great way to keep your laneway looking good and address any issues, such as needed repairs, vandalism and garbage. An area that looks clean and well maintained is more likely to stay that way (i.e. the broken window syndrome). It's also a great opportunity to get together and spend time with your neighbours after being cooped up during the winter.

Here are some ideas for planning a great laneway clean-up event.

- 1) Invite your group of friends, family and/or neighbours.** Consider creating an event flyer and posting in the laneway or sending it around electronically. You can also create a Facebook event.
- 2) Ask neighbours to share/bring supplies, such as large garbage bags, rakes, gloves, as well as paint and other tools.** Between April 4 - 22 you can also pick up free garbage and recycling bags at select [Pizza Pizza locations](#) in Toronto (white litter bags only), [Community Centres](#), and [Civic Centres](#). Note if you are selected as part of this year's Laneway Spring Clean-up, we will provide these things for you.
- 3) Sign-up with Clean Toronto Together.** [Scheduling your clean-up](#) with the City of Toronto allows you to arrange litter pick-up and avoid multiple groups cleaning the same location.
- 4) Plan other fun activities.** Bring out the games, hopscotch and sports equipment for the kids. Consider following the clean-up with a community barbeque or potluck or inviting the kids to host a lemonade stand.
- 5) Create a buzz.** If you want to recruit more volunteers, consider contacting local media or letting your councillor know and asking them to spread the work. Get people to share about the event on social media.
- 6) Host the event.** Focus on picking-up garbage, painting over vandalized garages, fixing any minor issues and getting rid of over-grown weeds and bushes. You may also want to identify any major issues in the laneway to be addressed later on.

## **Litter Pick-up Safety Types**

1. Wear appropriate and protective clothing (boots, gloves, rain jacket, hat, sunscreen)
2. Bring a first aid kit to your cleanup event
3. Be mindful of vehicles at all times
4. Do not pick up dangerous items (syringes and needles, metal, chemicals, medical waste) – report the location of these items to [311](#)
5. [Hazardous waste](#) should be set aside from your recycling & litter bags. Items include: batteries, aerosol containers, fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), helium and propane tanks/cylinders
6. Report suspicious items to the Toronto Police Service's non-emergency telephone number 416-808-2222

Adapted from Community Clean-up page on Toronto.ca