

Hosting a Litter Cleanup





**Thank you for your interest in hosting
a litter cleanup to make your community
cleaner, greener, and more beautiful!**

Keep Knoxville Beautiful can support
your event by providing litter cleanup
supplies and information on how to best
host a cleanup.

If you have any questions,
reach out to KKB at 865-521-6957 or
info@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org.



Planning a Cleanup

Before the Cleanup:

1. Get a rough estimate of how many volunteers will participate
2. Determine the length of the event
 - a. KKB recommends two hours for a cleanup
3. Find a site appropriate for your volunteers
 - a. KKB staff can help you pick a location
 - b. Consider how much litter is in an area and what is doable for your group size
 - c. It's okay if your group isn't able to pick up every piece of trash!
4. Determine where volunteers will park their cars
 - a. Churches, shopping centers, and parks are all great options for parking
5. Request supplies from KKB at least two weeks in advance
 - a. We provide litter pickers, gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and road safety signs
 - b. We can also provide waders and nets for water cleanups
6. Determine a location for trash bag disposal
 - a. Is there a dumpster near your cleanup site?
 - i. If so, request permission to use the dumpster
 - ii. If not, pile the bags at an intersection
 1. If cleanup location is in the city, call 311 to request bag pickup
 2. If cleanup location is outside of city limits, contact KKB to arrange bag pickup with Knox County Litter Crew
7. Contact your group of volunteers the week of the event to remind them about the cleanup details



During the Cleanup:

1. Welcome the volunteers
 - a. Explain the area where the group will be cleaning and identify any litter hot spots
 - b. Review safety tips (on following page)
 - c. Share trash drop locations
 - d. Give an end time for volunteers to return
2. Bathrooms
 - a. If there aren't public restrooms available, ask a nearby private facility (restaurant, gas station, store, etc.) if you may use theirs
3. Take photos and have fun!
 - a. Tag KKB at @keepknoxvillebeautiful on Facebook and Instagram

After the Cleanup:

1. Collect supplies from volunteers
 - a. Leave gloves loose/unfolded in the bag so that we can wash them
 - b. Fold safety vests
2. Properly dispose of trash bags or pile the bags at an intersection near the road for pickup by the city/county
 - a. Note the address/intersection of the bags if they need to be picked up
 - b. Contact KKB to request bag pickup from city/county
3. Report
 - a. Fill out the Cleanup Results form that was given to you by KKB
4. Return supplies
 - a. Arrange a time with KKB to return the supplies to the office
 - b. Please return supplies within 2-3 business days



Safety Tips:

1. Wear gloves and closed-toe shoes
2. Work with a buddy.
 - a. This makes it easier to listen for cars but also to pick up the trash. One can use the litter picker and the other can hold the trash bag.
3. Be aware of your surrounding and any potential hazards (cars, poison ivy, sharp objects, etc.)
4. Leave large items out of the bag, like tires or anything with a sharp edge that could puncture the bag
5. Don't pick up hazardous materials like needles, sharp objects, old batteries, or dead animals.
 - a. To dispose of needles safely:
 - i. Utilize a litter picker - do not pick up needles by hand
 - ii. Place needle in an empty bottle and close the lid
 - iii. Place bottle in a trash bag that is no longer being used
 - b. If something is labeled explosive, toxic, harmful or corrosive, do not pick it up
6. Leave liquids in containers
7. If you come across any active camps, do not disturb them

Packing List:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Cleanup Supplies | 2. Safety Items |
| a. Litter pickers | a. Hand sanitizer |
| b. Safety vests | b. First aid kit |
| c. Gloves | c. Bug spray |
| d. Trash bags | d. Sunscreen |
| e. Road safety signs | 3. Water and Snacks |
| f. Report form | a. If you're not bringing water, then ask volunteers to bring their own water |



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
- Common items in mobile meth labs:

◦ Sudafed packs	◦ Coffee filters
◦ Aluminum foil	◦ Batteries
◦ Cold compress packs	◦ Muriatic acid
◦ Plastic bottles with plastic tubing	◦ 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 labs can cause serious skin burns

If you find or think you have come in contact with a mobile meth lab, please notify the Knox County Sheriff's Office at 865-215-2243 or the Knoxville Police Department at 865-215-7212.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful Cleanup Results

Please use this worksheet to record the results from your Keep Knoxville Beautiful supported cleanup.

Organization Name:
Cleanup Location:
Cleanup Date:
Contact Name:
Contact Email/phone #:

of volunteers: _____

of **hours** cleanup held: _____# of **trash bags** collected: _____

Miles (streets, roads, highways, creeks, etc) cleaned: _____

Acres (park/public land/etc) cleaned: _____

of **tires** collected: _____# of **graffiti sites** removed/abated: _____

Did you find any unusual items?

Materials Check Out			
Litter Pickers:	Gloves:	Safety Vest:	Trash Bags: