



CITY OF EVERETT PUBLIC WORKS ADOPT-A-STREET SAFETY INFORMATION



Thank you for your service to our community. Litter cleanups can expose volunteers to traffic along roadways as well as other potential hazards. Please review the safety information below before your first cleanup event. We want to help make your cleanup as safe and rewarding as possible.

Equipment

The proper equipment is needed to do the job right. Your Adopt-a-Street kit includes:

- Safety vests
- Work gloves
- Nitrile gloves
- A First Aid kit
- "Volunteer Litter Crew Ahead" signs
- Litter bags
- Trash grabbers
- Red flags to mark hazardous items

It is also important to wear appropriate clothing. This includes sturdy shoes or boots (no sandals or flip-flops), a long-sleeved shirt, and long pants. Other helpful items to bring along include sunglasses, sunscreen, a cell phone, and plenty of water to drink. Avoid overexertion and overheating by drinking plenty of water and taking breaks.

At the cleanup event

It's a good idea for group leaders to drive or walk the route in advance. Note the condition of the street and any spots that need extra cleanup attention or should be avoided by volunteers (steep embankments, areas with blind curves or narrow shoulders, or places where suspicious or hazardous materials may have been dumped.) Have any new participants fill out a "Hold Harmless" volunteer form and check in with the group regarding any allergies or physical limitations.

Be seen, be safe

Clean only one side of the road at a time and walk facing oncoming traffic. Place the warning sign facing approaching traffic on the side of the roadway being cleaned. Walk in groups to increase visibility. Never assume a driver sees you. Wear your safety vest at all times when participating.

Be careful

Always keep safety in mind. Never enter the roadway to pick-up trash. Be prepared for any unexpected behavior of motorists and don't distract drivers by waving at them or engaging in horseplay. Don't stand or jump on guardrails, drainage pipes or concrete walls. Keep your attention focused on your job and the environment around you. It's important to be able to hear others in your group and approaching traffic, so leave all portable music players at home. Additionally, no alcoholic beverages are allowed before or during your cleanup.

If it's unknown, leave it alone

Don't pick up hazardous materials such as car batteries, petroleum products or other chemicals,

heavy or unwieldy objects, dead animals, broken glass, needles and drug paraphernalia, or any unidentified questionable items. Use a red flag to mark the item and make a note of the location on your green cleanup form. Stay away from these items and make sure everyone in your group stays away from them too. If in doubt, back away.

Other tips

Please do not remove signs while performing your cleanup. Signs that are lying on the ground are considered trash and are okay to remove. Don't overfill trash bags and be sure no objects are protruding from them. Pile full litter bags and debris that does not fit in bags on the side of the road. Flag the location of items that are too heavy or bulky to move, like appliances, mattresses or tires, especially if they are not readily visible from the road. This helps road maintenance crews find them and dispose of them properly.

Post cleanup

After your cleanup, be sure to fill out the green cleanup form so that trash bags can be picked up by city street crews. The Adopt-a-Street kit, green cleanup form, and any new "Hold Harmless" forms should be returned within two business days after the cleanup. There are a limited number of kits, so please don't keep your kit longer than necessary.

Thank you for helping to keep Everett clean!