

Community litter picking

Guidance and advice for individual volunteers

Birmingham City Council is committed to the safety of its staff, residents and all those volunteers who support our communities by cleaning up, making our environment a nicer place to be. Volunteer litter picking occurs in all different forms, from the individual whilst out for a walk, to organised groups looking to make an impact in their local community.

Your health and safety is important to us and this is why we have compiled this checklist to help you continue to enjoy your volunteering and to help keep Birmingham litter free, we thank you all. Follow our easy to use guide for preparing and taking part in litter picking.

	Dos and don'ts of litter picking
Can I take part?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Please follow current guidance on volunteering during Covid-19. ✓ If you are in an at-risk category, please consider carefully if you should be taking part in activities at this point. ✓ Do you have any Covid-19 symptoms? Please follow the current government advice on self-isolation.
Before litter picking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Always let a member of your family know where you are going and when you are expected home ✓ Carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies (If you have one). ✓ Remember to take hand sanitiser, gloves and a litter picker if you have one.
During litter picking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Always use gloves and litter pickers when collecting litter. ✓ Try to wear reflective or light-coloured clothing. ✓ Wear strong boots or shoes. ✓ Be aware of your surroundings. ✓ Please follow the current government social distancing guidelines, 2 metres.
After litter picking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Place any rubbish in a strong waste bag or double bag your rubbish. Place collected rubbish in a Birmingham City Council bin. ✓ Always wash your hands after litter picking. ✓ Inform the council of any problems or issues that you may have noticed; please call us on 0121 454 7810 or use our online forms https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20140/report_an_environmental_concern
Do not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Handle any needles or sharp objects. ✗ Pick up any discarded face masks or gloves with your hands, use litter pickers and place immediately in a bag. ✗ Litter pick on or near any busy roads. ✗ Work in or near any watercourses. ✗ Lift anything that is too heavy. ✗ Work when it is dark or unsafe. ✗ Approach any unknown people. ✗ Work when you are tired.