Litter Cleanup – Safety First Covid-19

Please take this with you to your cleanup site
Please inform all your volunteers of the following safety rules:

1. **Keep yourself safe** – Wear a safety vest and make sure you pay attention to traffic and other conditions around you while collecting litter or trash.

2. **Avoid personal injury** – Only pick up litter or trash that you can individually manage. Don’t exceed your physical weightlifting limitations. Report finding any of the following to local officials for their safe removal.

   **Please Do NOT Touch**
   - Items with a hazardous material label
   - Items that could pose an immediate danger
   - Items that could be crime-scene evidence
   - Items emitting a strong odor

3. **Stay Hydrated and Energized** – Single-serve packaging of food and water is appropriate at this time. If using disposable cups filled from refillable containers, make sure disinfectant wipes are available and used to wipe off the water spigot/handle or outside of refillable containers between users. Keep in mind single-use gloves are not effective unless changed before each activity.

4. **Physical Distance** – Keep a minimum of six feet away from others, unless you live or work with them regularly. The need for physical distancing is critical to stemming off a resurgence of COVID-19.

5. **Minimize physical contact with litter** – It is best to use some litter grabber and/or protective work gloves to protect yourself from cuts, scrapes, and any contaminant that may be on the collected litter or trash.

6. **Keep your hands away from your face** – During and after collecting litter, do not touch your face with gloved hands or hands that have not been washed and sanitized.

7. **Secure the collected materials** – In an abundance of extreme caution, secure the collected litter in closable plastic bags or a trash container with a secure lid. Try to minimize the handling and transfer of the materials collected. COVID-19 is spread primarily via airborne particles, and anyone transferring materials in bulk from one container to another should take extra precautions to not come in contact with airborne particles, e.g., wear a mask, wash hands thoroughly, and don’t touch clothing and then your face.
Post-Cleanup Activities

A. If you used any litter collection equipment, e.g. litter grabber or bucket, wipe with a disinfectant cloth/wipe prior to storage or return to CVC.

B. Carefully remove gloves and other protective clothing. If you plan on reusing your safety vest, gloves, and other clothing, sanitize them by washing them in a washer with regular detergent and cleaning cycles.

C. Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds at the end of the cleanup. Use hand sanitizer until you get to running water.

The Clean Valley Council (CVC) is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. CVC cannot be responsible for the safety of individual volunteers. This information has been provided to assist you in protecting your own safety.

THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT OUR VALLEY!
Volunteering for Clean Valley Council Bill of Rights

The Clean Valley Council will strive, to the extent possible, to ensure a CVC Volunteer:

1. Is welcomed to participate regardless of life experiences and abilities, learning and working style, personality type, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, class, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, or my cultural, political, or religious affiliation as long as that affiliation is inclusive as described;

2. Is greeted and introduced to staff and fellow volunteers.

3. Receives specific instructions, training, and resources needed to complete assigned task(s) – including safety training, if necessary.

4. Is treated with respect.

5. Is kept safe from harm, including any form of harassment from staff, fellow volunteers, or contractors.

6. Has an opportunity to work with a diverse & inclusive group of staff and volunteers.

7. Has their opinions heard, respected, and valued.

8. Receives timely communications, including:
   a. Notice of Volunteer Opportunities
   b. Confirmation of pledge and commitment to volunteer
   c. Advanced notice of location, time, and what to bring/wear and any updates
   d. Information about the volunteer event's goals, tasks, working conditions, and time commitment
   e. A thank you for their service and a report of the event's impact.

9. Knows that their personal information will not be shared outside Clean Valley Council and will not be used for any purpose without consent.

10. Is part of a fun, rewarding experience that benefits their community.
Did you know??

Cigarette Butts and Single-Use Plastics are the Most Common Litter

The most littered items often are made out of plastic, especially wrappers and other materials used for packaging. Aside from that, single-use plastics such as shopping bags and bottled water also top the list of the most littered items in the world.

Not surprisingly, another item that people try to throw away recklessly is cigarette butts. Smokers often flick them away on the streets once they are done smoking. However, much like plastics, these small cigarette filters can clog the street drains and worsen the flood. They also contain harmful chemicals that can endanger marine and terrestrial life.

Tons of Fast-Food Litter Ends Up in the Ocean

We all have our go-to fast food chains when we want to grab a bite on the go. However, both fast-food companies and consumers seem to have forgotten how to clean up after themselves. Items from fast food restaurants such as plastic bags, straws, cups, spoons, forks, and paper plates are some of the most found litter, especially in the city.

The world Spends $11.5 Billion a Year Just to Clean Up Litter

Cleaning up litter is costly, not to mention labor-intensive. The world spends a lot of unnecessary amount of money just to remove litter from public places. These funds could have gone to something more productive if only we know how to take care of our garbage.

In Japan, there is a Town that Doesn’t have trash

You read it right, there is a town in Japan that has gone nearly zero-waste, and they continue to do so today. Kamikatsu, a small village in the southwestern part of the country, sorts 34 categories of trash from paper, aluminum, steel cans, cardboard papers and a lot more. That goes beyond the usual biodegradable, non-biodegradable and recyclable bins of many modern cities.