

HEALTH AND SAFETY

If you attend an official clean-up, your host should have undertaken a risk assessment, and should provide you with a safety briefing.

However, it is important that everyone thinks about safety and understands how to keep themselves safe.

We recommend that you avoid:

- Potentially hazardous objects such as unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums and chemical containers.
- Sharp objects such as broken glass and disposable BBQs – these should be collected in separate containers not litter bags.
- Clinical waste such as needles/syringes – inform the organiser and arrange for safe disposal.
- Hazardous areas such as deep or fast-flowing water, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, derelict buildings, busy roads and electric fences (which are identified by yellow warning signs).
- Working alone – try to stay in sight and earshot of others but if not possible then let someone know where you've gone and when to expect you back.

To avoid illness from poor hygiene, all those taking part in the clean-up must:

- Wear heavy-duty, protective gloves at all times
- Cover any cuts (however minor) with surgical tape or a waterproof plaster
- Keep hands away from mouth and eyes while litter-picking
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet.

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