



Adopt-A-Street Safety Guidelines

The Adopt-A-Street Program encourage volunteers to always take safety precautions when collecting dangerous or unsafe litter. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. What is dangerous or unsafe litter?

Dangerous or unsafe litter includes broken glass, razor blades, syringes, hazardous household products, dead animals, condoms, all unlabeled jugs, bottles and drums.

2. How should litter be picked up that is not fully visible?

Never reach blindly to pick-up an item. Use a tool such as a grabber tool or hand-rake to “identify” an item before grabbing or cleaning it.

If an item is unidentifiable and possibly caustic or volatile, call the Illegal Dumping Hotline at (206) 684-7587.

3. How should dangerous or unsafe litter be disposed?

Please be aware that *Syringes with Needles* should always be disposed and placed in the following manner:

- Needle pointing down – into a hard plastic or metal container.
- Always put tape over the closed bottle cap and label container with warning: “DO NOT RECYCLE”
- Container(s) should then be capped and sealed. Sharps containers are available from Adopt-A-Street Coordinator at: **(206) 684-7647** or email AdoptAStreet@seattle.gov

Other sharp objects such as razor blades – should also be discarded this way.

Dispose of containers at either the North or South Transfer Stations

The risk of disease transmission, such as HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis B, from contact with needles is extremely low, especially if the precautions described above are taken. However, if you prefer to not pick-up discarded syringes that you find on public property, an Illegal Dumping Inspector can retrieve them for you. Call the Illegal Dumping Hotline: **(206) 684-7587** and SPU will dispatch an employee to pick-up all the reported needles within 24 hours.

City Guidelines:

In the City of Seattle it is **illegal to throw hypodermic needles and syringes or containerized sharps in the garbage, even if they are properly contained.* Instead, take sealed containers (as described above) to Seattle’s North or South Transfer Stations for free disposal. There is a one-gallon limit per trip. Call **(206) 684-8400** to confirm operation hours.

North Transfer Station	1350 North 34 th Street, Seattle 98103
South Transfer Station	130 South Kenyon Street, Seattle 98108

A designated person should be watchful of the site where unsafe litter was found for at least 2-4 weeks. If dangerous litter continues to be found, call the Seattle Police Department Non-Emergency at **(206) 625-5011** to file a report.

All other dangerous and unsafe litter should be reported to the Illegal Dumping hotline. Under no circumstances should you pick up hazardous material. Your safety is paramount, if an item is suspicious, make note of it and contact the Illegal Dumping Hotline at (206) 684-7587, and they will send an inspector to address the reported item.

If you find a dead animal, please report it to Animal Control at (206) 386-7387 and they will retrieve the carcass.

4. What are the other things to be aware of when working?

Be especially careful when working between cars and cleaning-up in gutter areas. If you cannot reach it with a grabber from the curb, leave it. Eventually, it will get to the curb. Never go into the street to pick up trash! Always wear a safety vest so you are visible to drivers.

Be aware of your surroundings and location at all times and watch children carefully. If you encounter a dangerous situation such as harassment from others, leave the area and dial 9-1-1 for assistance.

Important Telephone Numbers

Adopt-A-Street Hotline	(206) 684-7647
Illegal Dumping Hotline	(206) 684-7587
Seattle Transfer Stations Hotline	(206) 684-8400
Seattle Police Non-Emergency Line	(206) 625-5011
Animal Control	(206) 386-7387

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE ESSENTIAL THINGS YOU NEED TO REVIEW AND ADDRESS BEFORE EACH LITTER CLEAN-UP EVENT

Suggested Safety Gear (not provided by Adopt-A-Street)

- Long pants and long sleeve shirts
- Boots or sturdy shoes

Items Provided by Adopt-A-Street Programs

- High visibility safety vest – worn closed
- Litter tools
- Litter bags

Safety Guidelines

- Always Wear safety vest
- Stay off bridges and rocky, steep, or unstable slopes
- Watch for nails, syringes, broken glass, or other sharp objects (call 206-684-7587 to report syringes)
- Avoid stray or wild animals, stinging insects, and/or mosquitoes
- Be prepared for any unexpected behavior from motorist
- Only pick-up litter from the sidewalk. Do not pick-up litter in the street or on private property
- Leave encampments and personal items in place. Do not clean within 20 feet of tents and encampments.
- Work toward oncoming traffic
- Only work during daylight hours and good weather
- Stay clear of all construction and utility work sites
- Do not go into the roadway, median, or roundabout to remove litter
- Do not wear headphones
- No horseplay or pranks
- Do not stand or jump on guardrails, drainage pipes, or concrete walls
- Do not use alcohol or mind-altering substances prior to, or while participating in clean-up events
- Avoid overexertion and heat-related problems by drinking water and taking breaks

Emergency Procedures

- Know the location of the nearest emergency facility and how to quickly summon the police or medics
- Report all accidents or injuries to the crew leader immediately
- We recommend having at least one crew member with a valid First Aid Card

Items to Avoid

- Firearms and other weapons (if found contact the police immediately)
- Drug paraphernalia (hypodermic needles, baggies containing drugs or unknown substances)
- Hazardous materials (propane tanks, gas canisters, car batteries, petroleum products, chemicals, paints and solvents, unidentified containers, pharmaceuticals, or other known drug making materials)
- Dead Animals
- Heavy objects (large vehicle parts, engines, appliances, fallen road signs, etc.)
- Tires