

**Adopt-A-Street Safety Guidelines**

Seattle Public Utilities

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.

1. **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.

1. **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 Recycling and Disposal Stations (additional information below).

If you are uncomfortable picking-up needles, contact the Illegal Dumping, and Sharps Disposal Hotline at **(206)684-7587** and report the location of the needle. SPU will dispatch an employee to pick-up all of the reported needles within 24hr.

**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 Recycling and Disposal Station for free disposal. There is a one-gallon limit per trip. Call **(206) 684-7600** to confirm operation hours.

**North Recycling & Disposal Station**

N. 34th Street & Carr Place N.

**South Recycling & Disposal Station**

2nd Avenue S. & S. Kenyon Street

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.

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 do

prefer not to 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**.

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.

1. **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 Program Hotline (206) 684-7647

Animal Control (206) 386-7387

Illegal Dumping Hotline (206) 684-7587

Seattle Recycling and Disposal Stations Hotline (206) 684-7600

Seattle Police Department Non-Emergency (206) 625-5011