

The Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Drain Programs 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 picked-up?

- Use gloves.
- Broken glass should be swept with a broom and picked up with a dustpan.
- Syringes should be picked-up by the plunger handle or barrel but not the needle. Using a grabber is the safest method.
- Put all syringes into a *Sharp's Container* – available by request from the Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Drain Coordinator (See next page for disposal instructions).

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.
- If you encounter a dangerous situation such as harassment from others, leave the area and dial 9-1-1 for assistance.
- Be aware of your surroundings and location at all times and watch children carefully.
- *Neighborhood Cleanup in Progress* signs are available from the Adopt-A-Street and Adopt-A-Drain Coordinator.

Disposal of Dangerous or Unsafe Litter

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

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**.

Important Telephone Numbers

Adopt-A-Street Program Hotline (206) 684-7647

Illegal Dumping Hotline (206) 684-7587

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

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