

The Great British September Clean 2020

Guide for hosts

11 – 27
SEPTEMBER 2020

#GBSeptemberClean

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Join the Great British September Clean

In early 2020, Keep Britain Tidy launched the Great British Spring Clean calling on you, our #LitterHeroes, to take action to improve the environment on your doorstep by joining the country's biggest mass-participation environmental campaign. Sadly, due to matters beyond our control, the clean-up had to be put on hold but we are thrilled to be back in action and announce the launch of the Great British September Clean. We couldn't do the Great British September Clean without people like you committing to taking part - you are helping to make a real difference in your local community by getting people to think about the amount of litter in our environment. Once someone has been on a litter-pick, it's very hard for them to not notice litter everywhere they go, we want litter-picking to be the norm!

We're aiming to inspire #LitterHeroes from around the country to collect and safely dispose of litter from our streets, parks and beaches, recycling as much as possible.

It doesn't matter if this is your first time doing a litter-pick or your one hundredth, we want #LitterHeroes to stand together to declare that litter is unacceptable.

Clean-ups will take place from 11 - 27 September 2020 across the UK, with registration on our website open from 4 July 2020 at: [keepbritaintidy.org](https://www.KeepBritainTidy.org)

We're asking our #LitterHeroes to visit our website and

1. Pledge to pick - whether it's for ten minutes or ten hours, every little helps
2. Set up a clean-up for you and up to five other people in your local area

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Covid-19

To ensure that the Great British September Clean complies with the Government guidance in relation to COVID-19, this year's clean-up will be amended slightly to ensure the very greatest level of health and safety for all participants.

For our full guidance regarding Covid-19, please visit our website. Government guidance on the lockdown may tighten or ease over time, so please contact us if you have any questions about what is safe practice.

[keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/coronavirus-guidance](https://www.keeptobritain.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/coronavirus-guidance)

If you live in Wales or Scotland, please follow the appropriate guidance

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-2-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

For more information visit **www.keepwalestidy.cymru** or **www.keeptobritain.org**

Litterpicking can be carried out alone, in pairs or small groups of up to a maximum of six, including yourself, based on the current Government guidance for meeting with people outside of your household.

Guidance for volunteers working in small groups:

- Individuals currently shielding, in 'at risk' groups or displaying symptoms (or in contact with those with symptoms) or have been directly advised to self-isolate should not litter-pick.
- Bring your own gloves.
- Wash hands before and after at home or nearby w/c facilities.
- Carry hand sanitiser if you have access to some.
- Stay at least one metre from fellow volunteers and members of the public.
- Don't pick up sharps objects.
- Litter should be tied up in a strong waste sack.
- If taking a litter-picker home at end of the clean-up, please sanitize before storing.

Why is the Great British September Clean important?

There are lots of reasons why it's important to get involved. More than 2.25 million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day, with litter blighting our streets, parks and beaches and costing us nearly £1 billion a year to clear up – yet it's entirely preventable.

Litter can also harm wildlife. The RSPCA received 7,400 calls to report incidents of animals injured by litter in 2018 in England and Wales. Around 80% of the plastic in our oceans comes from litter dropped inland – you can be part of the solution and help ensure the plastic doesn't reach the sea!

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Taking part in the Great British September Clean is also good for your own well-being and connecting with others in your community. In 2019, 83% of our #LitterHeroes surveyed said they felt more pride in their local area after taking part and 84% said they would encourage other people that they know or meet not to drop litter.

Don't worry if you've never done a clean-up before, once you have all the basics covered you are set to go!

How to organise a clean-up

As an organiser, you're promising to:

- Have a well-planned, safe clean-up
- Communicate with your #LitterHeroes volunteers about locations, times and any equipment they'll need before the clean-up
- Read this guide and understand the safety advice - including briefing volunteers
- Tell us how much litter you collected by returning to your personalised dashboard on our website after your clean-up
- Comply with the terms and conditions for clean-up hosts, which are available at keepbritaintidy.org/gbsc20-host-terms-and-conditions

This guide covers the important things a clean-up host needs to consider:

1. Registering your clean-up on the website
2. Finding a location
3. Equipment, collection and recycling
4. Health and safety
5. Public liability insurance
6. Working with children
7. Spreading the word and reporting your impact



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1. Registering your clean-up on the website and reporting impact

This section explains how the Great British September Clean pages and personalised dashboard work. As an organiser, you can use the website to do three things:

1. Sign up to access your personalised dashboard

Visit [keepbritaintidy.org](https://www.KeepBritainTidy.org) to sign up to organise a clean-up. Once registered, you can log in to your personalised dashboard where you will be able to add your clean-ups, access exclusive content and resources, and record your results. You'll also receive emails from us about relevant Great British September Clean news, resources and more to help you with your clean-up (you can unsubscribe at any time).

2. Add your clean-up

Visit your dashboard to add your clean-up. You can list as many as you like. To ensure the safety of all volunteers, clean-ups must be registered as private events with a maximum of five other participants (subject to change in line with Government guidance on the maximum number of people who can meet in a public place). There will be no option to join or host a public clean-up event.

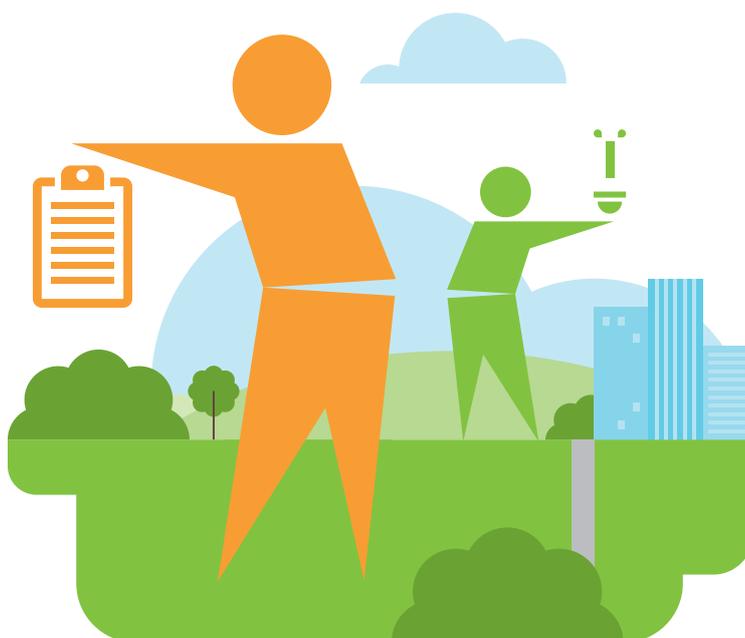
Please directly invite volunteers to your clean-up event to ensure you know exactly who will turn up on the day and to keep numbers within limits set by Government guidance.

3. Report your results

After your clean-up, we'd like you to return to your dashboard and report on the results of your clean-ups.

We're counting:

- How many people took part
- How many minutes you picked up litter for
- How many bags of litter were collected and
- What type of litter was collected (including how many bags of plastic bottles, aluminium cans or general waste you collected).



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2. Finding a location

First of all, you need to decide where you'd like to clean up. Have you noticed somewhere that needs a little attention? Think about where the litter hot spots are in your community, could it be near fast food shops or a hedge row that is regularly used as a bin instead of a shelter for wildlife?

This is your chance to make a difference and bring your community together.

Depending on who owns the land, you may need permission to carry out the clean-up. If you're cleaning up council-owned land, it's particularly important that you ask for permission well in advance of the clean-up, as the process for approval can take some time.

Covid-19 Guidance: As summer approaches, be aware that certain areas could be very busy so you may want to consider the timing of clean-ups e.g. in the evening and avoiding weekend times. Timing your clean-up appropriately will help you avoid 'pinchpoints' and remain socially distanced at all times.

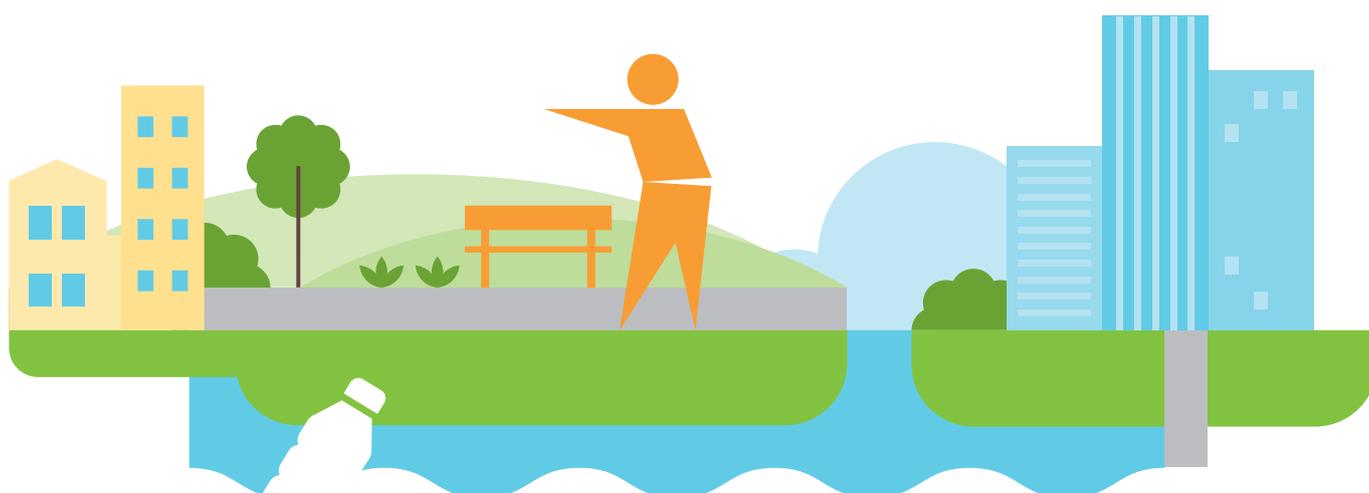
Got it all mapped out?

Why not sketch a map of the area you're going to tackle? Make a note of where litter or skip collection points are, as well as any useful amenities. You might also want to identify a 'lost and found' and a 'first aid' point and, just in case the weather's bad, your volunteers would definitely appreciate it if you marked an area suitable for them to shelter.

3. Promoting your clean-up

You may already know some #LitterHeroes in your community, or you may have friends and family who are passionate about improving the environment on their doorstep.

While you can't encourage people to join you on your clean-up you could let the world know what you're doing through your social media and encourage others to pledge or even organise their own clean-up. You could also let the local press and your MP know what you're doing and encourage them to support the campaign as well.



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4. Equipment, collection and recycling

You'll need the right equipment to help you successfully and safely complete a clean-up. We will be asking our #LitterHeroes again to separate the items they collect into three bags so as much as possible can be recycled:

1. Plastic bottles
2. Aluminium cans
3. General waste

It's important that your volunteers can be seen easily by other pedestrians and road users. High-visibility vests must be used where volunteers may be litter-picking on a pavement beside the road. They also help the group feel like a team.

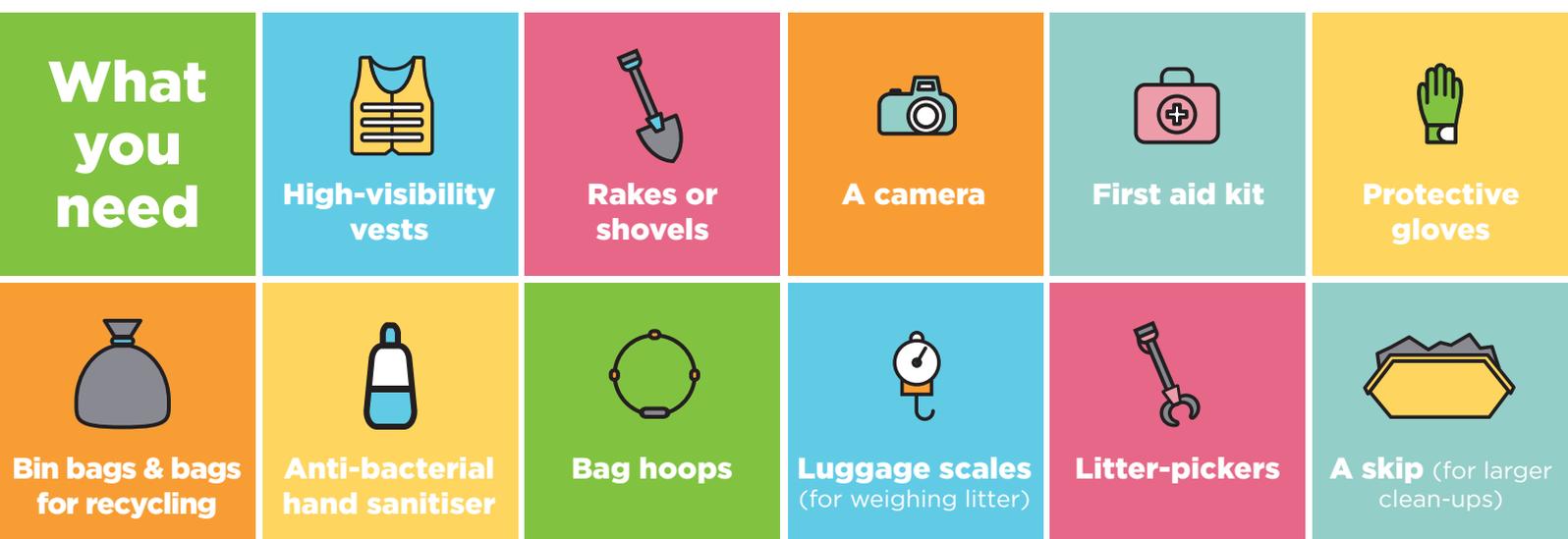
Your local council recycling officer may be able to loan you the equipment you need. This year, we asked every local authority to provide us with information about whether equipment can be borrowed, so please check our website for more information.

Your local council may also be able to help or advise on obtaining protective wear. Log onto your dashboard to see whether your council is offering anything!

Why not check if any of your volunteers can provide their own equipment before trying to source it from elsewhere?

Covid-19 Guidance: If you are providing volunteers with equipment, please ensure all equipment is appropriately sanitised before and after the clean-up event.

We would recommend volunteers keep hold of this kit for the foreseeable future, rather than return it after each use so that only they use it.



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5. Health and safety

Having chosen a place for your clean-up, visit the site and carry out a full assessment of the risks. You can find a template showing the type of thing you need to be looking for on your dashboard.

It's important you consider all of the possible risks to you and your volunteers. Look for the following hazards when assessing your site:

- Unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, other hazardous substances, broken glass, condoms, syringes, etc.
- Deep or fast-flowing water, currents or tides, steep, slippery or unstable banks, sharp rocks, mud holes, derelict buildings, busy roads, electric fences (which are identified by yellow warning signs) and so on.

Covid-19 Guidance: To ensure the safety of all volunteers, all those taking part must:

- Observe social distancing, particularly at start and end of event when the group is congregated during the safety briefing, which should be held outside.
- Bring personal hand sanitiser and appropriate PPE.
- Wear heavy duty, protective gloves at all times
- Cover any cuts (however minor) with surgical tape or waterproof plaster.
- Keep hands away from mouth, nose and eyes at all times.
- Wash hands and forearms thoroughly before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet.

Further measures taken by the group leader should include:

- Sanitising returned equipment.
- Signing all participants in themselves, rather than sharing a pen and paper.
- Providing spare gloves which people can take home.
- Sharing guidance with volunteers ahead of the clean-up.

Heavy lifting

- Lifting heavy items could be hazardous. Volunteers should be discouraged from lifting large or heavy items
- Once large or heavy items have been identified, consider whether it's practical for volunteers to remove them, or whether they would be best removed by the local council
- If you decide the item can be lifted by volunteers, this should be done at the end of the clean-up through a separate and co-ordinated effort.
- It's good practice to tie rope to large objects or use a grappling hook if a large object needs to be lifted.

Dangerous items

Make sure everyone is aware of potentially dangerous items that they should not pick up. If dangerous, poisonous or hazardous items are present, contact the Environment Agency on **0800 80 70 60**.

If syringes are spotted at any stage during your clean-up, do not attempt to move them yourself. Make a note of their location and inform your local council.

If you see someone fly tipping or come across hazardous waste, report it to the Environment Agency on its 24-hour hotline or, alternatively, contact the police.

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General awareness

- Brief all volunteers on the area you'll be cleaning and any hazards
- Make sure that any no-go areas are clearly outlined
- Volunteers should not pick in the carriageway of a road and remain on pavements at all times.
- Check that volunteers are wearing any safety equipment e.g. high-visibility vests.

6. Public liability insurance

It's not compulsory to have insurance in place for your group before participating in the Great British September Clean, but it is good practice to have insurance cover for your group. Insurance protects the group and group leader should a volunteer make a claim for an injury sustained while volunteering.

Setting up a policy for an individual group will require payment of a fee to an insurance company and this may be beyond the reach of some groups. In this instance, alternatives include checking whether your local Parish, Town or District Council can provide insurance. If you're volunteering as part of a faith group or as a member of a charitable organisation, its existing public liability insurance may provide cover for your activity.

7. Working with children

It is important to make sure children are accompanied by a responsible adult when taking part in a clean-up. In the case of young children we advise a ratio of no more than four children to one adult.

Before your clean-up, make sure children understand which items are potentially dangerous and should not be picked up. Teach children that if they are in any doubt they should ask a grown up before picking the litter up.

It's important that children are provided with gloves and wear suitable clothing and footwear. Don't let children pick for more than one hour at a time.

If only adults are involved, attempt only what is within everyone's capabilities and allow for rest breaks. Two to three hours of litter-picking is usually enough.

For more information about safeguarding children please see our safeguarding policy [keeptidytidy.org/keep-britain-tidy-safeguarding-policy](https://www.keeptidytidy.org/keep-britain-tidy-safeguarding-policy)

8. Spreading the word and reporting your impact

At Keep Britain Tidy, we want to know how it makes you feel to see litter on your streets, beaches, and parks. We want to know how much you collected and how many people are standing up and saying - no more! And we want to tell everyone about it; the media, big businesses and the government, so we can continue to pursue and influence change.

So please, after every clean-up, return to your dashboard on the Keep Britain Tidy [keeptidytidy.org](https://www.keeptidytidy.org) to record your results.

The Great British September Clean is all about encouraging new people to be part of the pick and for people to consider it normal to pick up litter as part of their daily routine. So, share your pictures on social media as widely as possible using the hashtag #GBSeptemberClean and help us trend this very important topic.

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