

Top Litter Pick Tips / Get Started Guide to Litter Pick



Litter picking is a great way to improve the places that you love or where you live, while raising awareness of littering. It is easy to do volunteer litter picks in your own time, for instance while walking your dog, or work with people to inspire change within a local area, leading by example so that streets can stay litter-free.

We have created an easy-to-read guide for you with top tips that answer basic questions about organising a litter pick.

Where to carry out a litter pick:

- perhaps you have spotted litter while walking your dog, during your school run or in your local neighbourhood. You can ask to your family or friends for suggestions!
- no permission is required to litter pick on public land, but you will need to gain a landowner's permission if you choose to do it on private land
- think if you can easily access the area and how you can carry litter bags to a designated collection point, agreed in advance with East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS), which collects waste and recycling on behalf of the council.
- knowing your litter pick area (for instance the proximity to cars and cycle routes, waterways) will make it easier to identify potential hazards and establish measures to control them – choose an area where you can stay safe or minimise any risk identified

What equipment you need:

- personal protective equipment such as a litter pick stick, a high visibility vest, a pair of thick gloves and a hoop for litter bags
- enough bags for the area that you aim to cover and 'this is not a fly tip' stickers for bags. Contact the council's Customer Services at ContactUs@eastcambs.gov.uk for a supply of bags and stickers to mark the collected litter bags, so that they are not mistaken as fly tipping

How to stay safe:

- visit the area prior to the litter pick in order to complete a Risk Assessment Form. This will help you to identify any hazard and control measures, and ways to mitigate risks in the event of an accident. Find it in the Litter Picking Guide at [Love Your Street | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/love-your-street)
- have a first aid kit that you can use
- identify local minor injuries walk in centres or the nearest A&E
- tell someone you will litter pick and have a mobile phone if you need to contact anybody in the event of an emergency
- check the weather, plan in advance for changes, or cancel the litter pick in case of extreme weather
- arrange a litter pick only in daylight hours and if visibility allows

What to avoid:

- dead animals
 - needles or drug litter (including gas canisters)
 - hazardous waste or spillages (such as asbestos, paint pots)
 - fly tipping
- Do not collect but report them using the online forms at: [Clean Streets | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/clean-streets)
- unidentified waste. Waste that is harmful (such as sharp objects, broken glass) should not be collected if you cannot mark bags or believe the bags can constitute a hazard to the public or the crew collecting them
 - leaving litter bags untied or items unbagged

How to dispose of litter:

- request the collection of your litter pick bags in advance, filling in the [Litter Picking Bags Collection Request Form - EASTCAMBS.GOV.UK](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/litter-picking-bags-collection-request-form), on the council's website or contact ContactUs@eastcambs.gov.uk
- ensure the items collected can be accepted at the Household Waste Recycling Centre if you want to bring them there for disposal. Visit: [Witchford Waste Recycling Centre \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/witchford-waste-recycling-centre)
- you can only recycle clean recyclable materials through your blue bin collection. If found during the litter pick, bring them home in a separate bag and place them in your bin for recycling

How to get people on board:

- share details of your litter pick with family and friends, everyone can become a #LoveYourStreetHero!

- create a public event on Facebook
- join active litter picking groups. For info, you can visit: [Love Your Street | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/love-your-street)
- consider approaching other volunteering and outdoor groups or dog walkers and let them know about Love Your Street
- share the Love Your Street campaign link on social media, tagging @EastCambs with hashtag #LoveYourStreetHero
- share your pictures of litter picking with the council's Waste Team at waste@eastcambs.gov.uk, giving your consent to use them. Even this last step of your litter pick will help to fight anti-litter behaviours, as it can encourage other people to litter pick or keep our streets litter-free

Thank you for spreading the Love Your Street message and your contribution to create a cleaner and greener East Cambridgeshire!



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

