

PROCESS

What Should I Bring? What Equipment Will I Need?

Equipment such as gloves, bags and litter pickers will usually be supplied by the organiser, but you are welcome to bring your own! We recommend bringing sturdy gloves such as gardening gloves for comfort and protection against potential sharp litter.

Reducing the amount of plastic bags used is ideal, so you can bring a bucket or reusable bag to put collected litter in.

Depending on the timing of the clean, you may need to bring a packed lunch (containing minimal plastic waste!) Bring plenty of water too.

Wear weather-appropriate clothing such as waterproofs if it's predicted to rain, or a sun hat if it is sunny!

What Happens When I Get There?

Usually the organiser will give a briefing on the beach litter problem, instructions and safety guidelines for the clean itself and whether any information on the litter will be collected.

Equipment should be handed out afterwards.

A group picture may be taken before or after the clean, you can choose whether or not to be included in this.

What Are the Main Health and Safety Concerns Point I should be Aware of?

Depending on where the clean is happening, health and safety advice will vary. For example, if the site is near a pier, it is best to clean next to it and not underneath. Avoid slippery surfaces like large rocks.

Be dressed suitably for the type of beach and weather conditions you will be working in- we recommend closed-toe shoes.

You may find litter that is sharp, such as glass or nails- in this situation call your organiser over and they will handle it. Wear sturdy protective gloves to ensure anything like this doesn't hurt you if picked up.

Can I Bring Children? What About Dogs?

You are usually welcome to bring children and dogs along to beach cleans.

Make sure children are dressed appropriately and bring gloves of a suitable size for them. Under 16's must be supervised by an adult.

Be aware that some beaches may not allow dogs in certain areas or at certain times of the year.

How Long will the Beach Clean Last?

Beach cleans usually last for around two hours, but it's okay if you cannot stay for the full length of the clean.

How Much Exercise is Involved?

Minimal exercise will be involved- you should be able to walk up and down the beach, but this can be at your own pace.

What Should I Be Picking Up? What Happens To The Litter After The Clean?

You should be looking for litter of all kinds, such as plastic wrappers, bottles, polystyrene, cotton bud sticks, even rope. Keep an eye out for nurdles too- small plastic pellets.

If you encounter something sharp such as glass or nails, call your organiser over and it will be handled separately.

Organic material such as seaweed and driftwood (not wood that is painted or has nails sticking out) can remain on the beach as they are important to various organisms living there and will also biodegrade safely.

After the cleanup, recyclables will be separated out.

Other litter will likely be bagged up and disposed of appropriately via the organisation or council.

Sometimes litter bags will be weighed by the organiser.

Any information obtained by the organiser such as sheets you fill out might contribute to reports.

What Else Can I Do to Help?

Do not flush baby wipes, cotton buds or sanitary products down the loo.

Cut down on plastic waste by using reusable bags, coffee cups, water bottles and Tupperware tubs

Make sure you recycle as much as you can!