

BASIC 5-STEP GUIDE TO ORGANIZE YOUR OWN COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

STEP 1. ASSESS THE OPTIONS

How much will you be cleaning up? How many garbage bags and gloves might you need? Note where the worst mess is, its nature, and what could conceivably be done with a few hours' labor from several people.



STEP 2. WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY

a. Does your community have any organizations within it? Try working with your community's neighborhood watch, residents' association, etc. If not, organize a group of neighbors who share your concerns.

b. Certain municipalities have volunteer litter clean-up teams, like:

- Middle Smithfield Township's "1000 Feet of Street"
- Chestnuthill Township's "Pride in Chestnuthill"
- Keep Hawley-Honesdale Beautiful



STEP 3. SET A DATE AND TIME

Set a time and date that most people are likely to attend, such as on a weekend. Spread the word by talking to your neighbors, posting on social media, or setting up an event on Facebook and inviting members of the community.



STEP 4. PURCHASE NEEDED EQUIPMENT

You'll need garbage bags, gloves, safety vests or brightly colored t-shirts for safety, reacher-grabbers, and a way to dispose of the filled garbage bags; taking them to a proper dumpsite, renting a dumpster, reporting your pick-up to a local road agency like PennDOT, etc.



STEP 5. OFFER AN INCENTIVE

Have some type of incentive or reward; coffee, cakes, snacks, fruit, or a BBQ celebration afterwards. Perhaps make t-shirts for the event and distribute them to all who volunteer to keep. Or, to make the process more fun, see who can find the most unique piece of trash.



Some road maintainers such as PennDOT, or your township/county/municipality, like to know when groups are out picking up litter, so they can help minimize any risk. They may do this by restricting hours to between dawn and dusk, not allowing clean ups on high-traffic days such as holidays, and even closing roads to through traffic during clean-ups. There is no special permit needed to pick up litter, but it is recommended to contact and coordinate with your township, county, or municipality office.

They also may be able to help with bags, gloves, cones, etc. and it would allow them to retrieve bags when your group is finished picking up.

