

Organising a Big Tidy Up

Preparing for your litter pick

Arrange the class into groups of three with the equipment for each of the roles:

Role 1 - Litter picker

1 x litter picker

Role 2 – Recycling & Rubbish Expert

1 x pair of heavy duty gloves

1 x black garbage bag for rubbish

1 x bag for recycling

Role 3 – Data recorder

1 x clipboard

1 x pencil

1 x litter pick recording sheet

Explaining your litter pick

- Explain each of the roles and ask students to agree on the roles in their group
- Demonstrate how to use the equipment
- Ensure everyone knows what can and cannot be recycled in your local area.

During the litter pick

- Set boundaries for students (ie. fence/playground/building)
- Ensure groups stay together to ensure the data recorders can record accurate details

After the litter pick

- Dispose of your black bags in the normal school waste bins
- The contents of the recycling bags can be sorted if necessary and then recycled
- Use the recorded data in maths lessons to create graphs and percentages to present the different types of litter found
- Plan another litter pick and compare the data to monitor a reduction or increase in litter in the targeted area

Health and Safety Information

When conducting a Big Tidy Up litter pick it is important to ensure that participants are aware of the below health and safety information in addition to details you would normally cover for outdoor learning at school. Consider where to meet if the weather turns bad.

Health and safety information for participants:

- Everyone must wear gloves. Wear heavy duty PVC protective gloves at all times when collecting litter
- Avoid picking up litter with your hands, use a litter picker instead
- Cover any cuts, however minor, with surgical tape or waterproof plaster
- Avoid rubbing the mouth and eyes whilst working
- Wear strong, sensible shoes such as boots or wellies
- Do not attempt to pick up any dangerous items such as dog mess, broken glass or needles. (Information about dangerous litter should be passed on to the appropriate person - janitor for litter in school grounds, local authority street cleansing for litter outside school grounds)
- Groups must stay together
- Make sure everyone knows where the First Aid kit is located
- Bags should only be half-filled to avoid them getting too heavy and should be held away from the body to avoid injury from sharp items
- After the litter pick everyone should wash their hands and forearms before eating, drinking or going to the toilet

Litter Picking Kit

The Litter Picking Kit contains:

- 1 x Big Tidy Up poster
- 30 x small durable gloves
- 10 x litter picking record sheets
- 1 x school risk assessment form
- 30 x child size high visibility jackets
- 10 x child size 'graptor' litter pickers

Why organise a Big Tidy Up?

Many schools organise litter picking activities with children to raise awareness of the importance of keeping our environment clean and healthy. It is an ideal way to teach young people about the problem of litter in their local environment. Getting involved in a tidy up gives young people the opportunity to become part of their local community, making a positive contribution to their local and learning at the same time. Litter is also one of the nine Eco Schools topics.

'Many Eco-Schools choose to tackle litter in their school as one of their first priorities following their Environmental Review. It is a highly visible issue and one that is easily understood by all ages. A litter-free school is very noticeable and can enhance your school's image in the local community.'

The Big Tidy Up website contains further information about organizing a litter pick at school or in a public space. Please visit their website for further information.

www.thebigtidyup.org

www.recycleforyourcommunity.com/schools



The Recycle for your Community Litter Picking Kit supports schools taking part in a Big Tidy Up



[Information about the Litter Picking Kit](#)

Schools can borrow the FREE litter picking kit for up to one week at a time

The Education Officer will arrange delivery and collection of the kit to and from your school

If you have any questions or would like to request delivery or collection of the Litter Picking Kit please call the Education Officer on 07891 815068 or email jennifer.cooper@keepbritaintidy.org