

What?

- In Britain 30 million tonnes of litter are dropped every year costing millions of pounds to clear up.
- Litter is ugly; it blights our beauty spots as well as being harmful to the environment, to our health, and to wildlife.
- People generally believe that clearing up litter is someone else's job, and education and behaviour change is at the centre of most litter campaigns for that reason.



Why?



- Discarded litter can take a long time to decompose: orange peel, banana skins and cigarette butts - up to 2 years, plastic bags -10-20 years, tin cans - 50 years.
- Natural environments are often used for recreational activities and therefore litter can pose significant dangers to visitors.
- Litter picking presents safety hazards and the potential for injuries and accidents such as cuts from broken glass and cans, needle sticks from discarded hypodermics, contact with biological materials and harmful or irritating chemicals.

Do ✓

- ✓ Survey the site before you start and check for dangers
- ✓ Wear gloves
- ✓ Beware of any dangerous items such as canisters, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, broken glass, sharp metal, condoms and syringes
- ✓ Use litter picking tools so you don't handle the rubbish and don't have to bend down
- ✓ Take it in turns to hold the bag/litter to prevent overstraining
- ✓ Keep with your group to prevent getting lost or separated
- ✓ Ensure all bags are tied up after the activity and disposed of carefully

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't pick up sharp objects, report to the group leader and they will dispose of using the sharps box
- ✗ Don't kneel down or sit down without first checking the ground for objects
- ✗ Don't remove natural wildlife habitats such as logs and stones



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