

Capital City Clean Up

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in white text on a blue rectangular background.

Last revision January 2025, next revision January 2028

LITTER PICK UP SAFETY GUIDELINES

The City of Edmonton's Capital City Clean Up believes that keeping our city clean is a shared responsibility. These safety guidelines must be reviewed before participating in any litter pick up activity.

Preparing for your litter pick up

- Wear gloves appropriate to the task at all times (e.g. leather gloves for sticks/brush)
Large nitrile gloves are provided in the kits
- Check weather conditions for inclement weather/smoke
- Dress for the weather conditions and keep in mind that PPE needs to be worn with your clothing
- Wear sturdy footwear appropriate to the task (for your safety, open toe shoes are not permitted)
- Wear a hat, sunscreen, insect repellant and sunglasses as required
- Ensure to stay hydrated
- Have a plan for emergencies that could arise and ensure that you have a means of communication to ensure someone knows where you are (such as a charged cell phone, work with a partner)
- Familiarize yourself on sorting pick up items into the types of items that go into each bag (e.g. black for garbage, blue bag for recycling)

During your litter pick up

Be aware of your surroundings:

- Visually inspect the location where you will be picking up your litter and be aware of your hazards (e.g. moving vehicles, tripping hazards, sharp objects)
- Do not walk on roads, steep hills, embankments, heavily treed areas, or uneven ground
- Do not wade into the water bodies to retrieve items
- Observe people and animals present in the area
- Only pick up litter during daylight hours
- Do not trespass on private property
- Do not compress garbage or reach into containers with hands or feet
- Ensure that proper lifting techniques are used
- Do not pick up heavy or oversized items

If you come across the following items, do not touch and report to 311:

- Sharp items, including needles and broken glass
- Syringes or other drug paraphernalia
- Hazardous waste (e.g. oil, chemicals)
- Suspicious items (e.g. backpacks, sealed boxes)
- Heavy and oversized items (e.g. furniture)
- Encampments

Take the appropriate action based on your situation.

Call 911:

- If you are experiencing a medical emergency
- If you become seriously injured
- If you find yourself in a dangerous situation

Call 811:

- If you are feeling faint or dizzy
- If you are experiencing symptoms of illness
- If you have sustained a minor injury like a cut, or muscle sprain

Live Chat Online, Text (INFO) **OR** Call 211:

- If you or someone you encounter are experiencing challenges as a result of poverty, violence, and/or mental illness and require social support assistance

After your litter pick up

Ensure the proper disposal of the bags that have been used during your clean up.

Dispose of your garbage bags in one of the following ways:

- Place bags in your residential garbage
- Place bags in a city garbage can; please do not dispose of any bags in dumpsters
- Leave large volumes of bags in an area accessible by vehicle and contact 311 with the location

Ensure cleanliness once you have completed your litter pick up.

Be sure to:

- After using a litter grabber, clean it off for future use
- Wash your hands thoroughly
- Ensure that affected clothing is cleaned or laundered
- Dispose of used PPE into black garbage bags

It is your responsibility to use your litter pick up kit safely and responsibly. If you have questions, email capitalcitycleanup@edmonton.ca for additional information.

Thank you for helping keep our city clean. Have fun!