



ADOPT-A-STREET VOLUNTEER SAFETY GUIDE

Welcome to Metro Beautification and Environment Commission's Adopt-A-Street program! While you are making a difference picking up litter, please make sure you are doing it safely. These guidelines were developed with your safety in mind. Please follow them at all times!

SAFETY REMINDERS

- Hold safety "tailgate" meetings before each pickup.
- Carpool to minimize number of vehicles at the site, and park clear of the roadway.
- Put on safety vest prior to getting onto the roadside.
- Wear gloves, leather shoes or boots, hats, long sleeves and light colored clothing. Absolutely no open toe or open heel shoes.
- Place warning signs at the beginning and end of the work area.
- Face oncoming traffic while working.
- Maintain a working group of six to ten people. Work in pairs.
- Avoid working during peak travel times.
- Do not work on holiday weekends.
- Stop work in inclement weather.
- Avoid overexertion.
- Do not remove hazardous substances.
- Watch for snakes and sharp objects.
- Do not pick up items on bridges, in tunnels or on overpasses.
- Stay clear of construction areas.
- Do not pick up items from the pavement or median.
- Participants 12 - 17 years old must be adequately supervised by one or more adults. Ratio: At least one (1) adult supervisor for every five (5) youth.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Wear sunscreen.
- Do not over-stuff litter bags or compact them. When a bag feels heavy (about 10 pounds average), secure it and get another bag. Place bags together, if possible, near the roadside or next to your Adopt-A-Street signs.
- No horseplaying or waving of arms that might distract drivers.
- For younger volunteers, do not pick up broken glass, knives or dangerous items instead, call these items to the attention of an adult volunteer.
- Stay alert and well away from the road.
- Do not wear headsets, listen to music or talk on cellphones while cleaning the roadside.

BAG IT, MOVE IT, OR LEAVE IT?

BAG IT

These items may be placed in a bag:

- Small items made of paper, cardboard, plastic, Styrofoam, wood, rubber, glass, or metal provided that the item does not have sharp edges.
- Small, empty containers provided they do not have sharp edges.

MOVE IT

These items should be placed alongside your stacked bags at the edge of the shoulder:

- Items with dull, pointed edges that might tear a bag.
- Large items that would prevent a bag from being properly tied closed.
- Heavy items that could tear a bag, provided that the item can be moved without causing physical injury.
- Containers that are not empty if the contents will not spill when moved and you can identify the product as one that is not hazardous. If you suspect that an item contains urine, do not move it.

LEAVE IT (If in doubt, leave it alone!) AND NOTIFY METRO BEAUTIFICATION STAFF

These items should be left where found:

- Sharp, large, or heavy items that could cause physical injury if moved.
- Any item in an unsafe location (within six feet of a traffic lane, or unstable ground, etc.)
- Any item that you cannot identify and suspect may be hazardous.
- Unclosed or leaking items containing hazardous substances. Items may have labels such as Explosive, Toxic, Harmful, Corrosive, or Poisonous Gas written on them.
- Do not attempt to recap or pick up needles.

METH LAB AWARENESS INFORMATION

The roadside dumping of illegal meth lab waste is becoming a serious problem in Tennessee. It may look like carelessly dumped trash, but is extremely hazardous to your health and has a severe impact on the environment.

Do not let meth waste threaten you or your group's safety! If you sight any of the following items along the roadside, do not approach or attempt to remove these items. Instead, immediately contact the Metro Police Department at 615-862-8600:

- Empty or used alcohol products such as isopropyl rubbing alcohol, denatured alcohol, etc.
- Numerous empty pill bottles and packaging, especially empty blister packs of nasal decongestant or cold remedies.
- Containers of separated liquids of ANY color.
- Bottles that look like they contain urine or windshield wiper fluid.
- Unused matches without striker plates, or washed striker plates.
- Corroded propane tanks or tanks with blue discoloration. Watch out! This means the tank is EXPLOSIVE!
- Boxes of battery fluid or bottles of muriatic acid
- Kitty litter bags, especially if they look like they've been opened and taped closed.
- Trash bags that are taped shut or with tubes coming out of them.
- Containers with any type of tubing attached.
- Anything put together or bundled up with duct tape.
- Suspicious-looking tool boxes, coolers, or other convenient storage containers.

These items could be portable meth labs that have been hidden or stored by the roadside.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING KEEP NASHVILLE
CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL!**