

Voluntary Litter Picker Checklist

Voluntary Litter Pickers can be exposed to a number of easily avoidable hazards. This guidance has been produced to help volunteers identify these hazards, making their involvement safe and enjoyable. It should be followed by all volunteers.

Before	Choose a location and assess the risk's the site poses before commencing the litter pick.	
	Select a time for your litter pick within daylight hours and in good weather conditions.	
	Inform your next of kin of your litter picking location and the date/time you expect to carry out the litter pick.	
	Ensure you have all the necessary equipment to undertake the litter pick safely, including bin bags provided by the Council.	
	Check the weather and wear appropriate clothing.	
During	Wear safety equipment – hi-vis waistcoat, gloves, and enclosed, sturdy shoes.	
	Always use a litter picker and gloves when collecting litter to avoid direct contact. If an item of litter cannot be safely reached with a litter picker, leave it.	
	Ensure there is a first aid kit and means of seeking medical attention when necessary. Make sure to clean and cover any cuts or abrasions.	
	Be aware of your surroundings, stay clear of steep slopes, water, rocks and large areas of mud.	
	Follow local rules and guidelines such as safe and lawful parking.	
	Follow the Highway code , always face oncoming traffic if litter picking next to a road, keeping a safe distance from the road. Never litter pick on the roadside if the speed limit is above 30mph.	
	If you find a weapon, report it to the police.	
	Do not attempt to remove dead or live animals. If dead, report to the Council. If alive report to the RSPCA.	
	Do not pick up needles or drug paraphernalia, report to the Council.	
	Do not pick up any items that are not identifiable and could be deemed hazardous, for example asbestos or chemicals like battery acid. Report to the Council.	
	Do not overfill bags and avoid lifting heavy objects or sacks alone. Do not carry bags over your shoulder.	
	Do not compress bags as it can result in cuts and abrasions.	
After	Avoid confrontation, do not approach anyone you do not know or anyone who is littering.	
	Ensure hands are thoroughly cleaned using wipes, gels or by washing.	
	Carry out a personal inspection for any cuts or abrasions.	
	Inform the Council of any issues you may have encountered.	
	Collected litter should be disposed of by placing next to a Council litter bin. The volunteer should ensure that the placement of the bin bag does not prevent any access issues.	

Key contacts:

Email: customerservices@rochford.gov.uk or [Report It | Rochford Council](#)

Phone: 01702 546366

RSPCA 24-hour line: 0300 1234 999

Website: www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/contactus/reportcruelty