THE STREET SWEEP TOOKIT





DO SOMETHING

Ready to clean up your streets and make a real impact?

Organize and host your own Street Sweep to help keep your streets and streams clean.

This toolkit has **everything you need to organize your Street Sweep community cleanup**: checklists, tips, and notes. Grab your Sweep Squad (pointers on how to assemble one are also included here), then hit the streets, sidewalks, parks and/or beaches, and **start helping to keep your neighborhoods and waterways litter-free!**

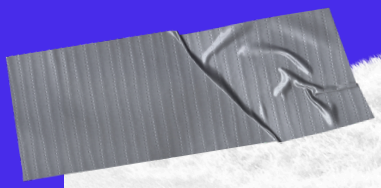


Let's sweep the streets and spark change, one ripple at a time.

STREET SWEEP YOUR COMMUNITY

If you want to get serious about ridding your streets of pollution and trash before it makes it to our waterways, it's time to get out there and get your hands dirty!

Here's how to organize a Street Sweep cleanup:



PICK A LOCATION

Got a street corner that makes you cringe? Is there a place where litter, garbage bags and soda cans seem to gather? **The goal of your clean-up is to stop trash from going into the storm drains**, so look for and choose a location that's a high-trash area.

- Sidewalks
- Parks
- Parking lots
- Along a river, stream, pond, or beach

I'm going to/plan on cleaning up:

_____

Other/alternate streets and locations to clean up:

_____



SQUAD UP

While you certainly can go solo, you don't need to: feel free to **grab a few friends, classmates, teammates or neighbors to join your Sweep Squad**. Start by reaching out to people who care just as much as you do about your community, or just give your buds a really good excuse to hang out outside.

Friends/family/neighbors/community members I think would be interested:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

My confirmed Sweep Squad:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____





Whether it's an email, text, DM, WhatsApp, or 1-on-1, reach out to your peeps with the script on the next page.

Sweep Squad Outreach Email

Hey **[Friend's name],**

I wanted to tell you about an impactful and fun opportunity happening on **[Planned Date]** that I'm really excited about - and it's basically the perfect way to do good, and get volunteer creds.

It's all about protecting our environment by cleaning up litter and pollution around our communities and bodies of water. We're gonna hit the streets, pick up trash, and protect our waterways, because honestly, our community needs it. Here's the deal: debris and trash littered across our city (neighborhood) will eventually make its way to our storm drains and into our waterways. To help keep our rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans clean, we need to trash our trash.

Here's why you should get involved:
First - I need your help and can't do it alone! Your support would mean the world to me. Also, you'll automatically earn 10 volunteer hours and a signed certificate just by participating.

Why it matters to me:
Because saving the planet and keeping our streets clean is a BIG deal (and flex), volunteer hours look great on college apps and résumés, and we all need them to graduate.

If you're interested, please consider **signing up here**, and pass this on to any other friends who want to squad up, and help out to clean our streets and protect our waterways!

SMS, WhatsApp, DM

We can clean up our block and get 10 volunteer hours by sweeping our streets + making a quick PSA about protecting our waterways! Here's the link: dosomething.org/program/wavemakers





GET THE OKAY

If it's just you, or you and a couple of friends in your Sweep Squad, you probably don't need official permission to pick up trash from your streets. But **if you're going to get a huge crew together**, then you'll need to run it by some people.

Is your cleanup site on public property?
(If it is a park, or piece of green in your neighborhood, the answer is probably yes.) If so, call up your local **Department of Recreation** or **Department of Public Works**, and find out how you can **secure a permit to clean up in a specific park/location**, on a specific date and time.

Is your cleanup site on private property?
(If it's in an area with a lot of houses, or a field out in the country, the answer is probably yes.)

How to ask for permission:
Talk to the landowner(s) to get permission to host a clean up on their property(ies). You may have to knock on some doors.

Hi, my name is _____

I am in the/my _____ grade/year in _____ school/college.

I'm working on doing something about _____
This is an important issue to me because _____

I could use your help in/with _____

Thank you for your help and support.

SET A DATE

Pick a weekend day (or **any day**, really) **that works for you and your Sweep Squad**. Make sure it doesn't overlap with sports practice or other activities. **Keep in mind the following:**

- Saturday mornings are usually the best time.
- Plan accordingly to be outdoors: the weather may be hot or cold, and you want you and your cleanup squad to be comfortable and prepared.
- Pick a date to make sure you have enough time to plan and get volunteers/Sweep Squad on board.
- Schedule an alternate date, just in case it rains!

→ **Date and time of cleanup:**

_____

→ **Alternate rain date and time:**

_____



CHECK OUT THE LOCATION

Grab a few of your Sweep Squad members, or an adult to accompany you to **check out your cleanup location**. It's a great way to start thinking about how to map and **plan your cleanup**.

About the location:
Is there a bathroom nearby? __YES __NO
If not, ask a nearby business owner if they will donate their bathroom for a few hours on the day of the cleanup.

Is it easy to get to? __YES __NO
If not, choose a meeting place in the middle of town and drive or walk to the site together. (If you need to drive, make sure someone will be available to give you a ride before you do too much planning.)

MAKE A TRASH DISPOSAL PLAN

For your cleanup to be successful, you'll also need help hauling away all the trash and junk you've collected. If it's a ton of stuff, you may need to **call your city government or local Department of Sanitation and ask about options for scheduling a pickup for trash and recycling**. Ask if they can help you with:

Removal of trash bags __YES __NO
Removal of recyclables __YES __NO
Removal of big items from the site (appliances/tires) __YES __NO

Try searching for local 'sanitation' departments:



Contact Name _____

Contact Phone # _____ Contact Email _____

Take note of:

What's Trash

What's Recyclable

What's Compost



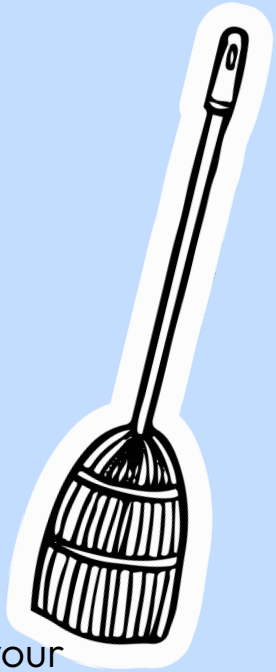
GET YOUR SUPPLIES

Supplies for trash disposal can be costly, however, **you may be able to request supplies from the city government.** Reach out early to find out if they have any programs your event qualifies for or if they can connect you to any other organizations.

There's also a good chance that you can get local businesses (think hardware stores) to donate materials such as trash/recycling bags and rakes. Depending on the size and type of your neighborhood Street Sweep cleanup, **another option is to ask your volunteers to bring the items from home.**

Here are some things you'll probably need:

- Heavy-duty trash bags
- Different-colored bags or boxes for recyclable (and/or compostable) materials
- Work gloves
- Rakes
- Shovels
- Maybe a wheelbarrow
- First-aid kit (Band-Aids, antibacterial gel)
- Hand sanitizer
- Water (you're going to get thirsty!)
- A sign-in sheet to collect the names and contact info of your Sweep Squad volunteers.



GET THE WORD OUT

Create and **post flyers** at school, around town, at your place of worship, supermarket bulletins - all over! You can also **send an email or sms blast** to your buds. Lastly, post your Street Sweep details on all your **socials**, and be sure to include **#StreetSweep #DoSomething**

Be sure to include:

* Date
* Time
* Location of the cleanup
* Where everyone will meet
* Rain date

Register your Street Sweep cleanup with us

Add your cleanup to DoSomething's Street Sweep events, where other neighboring DoSomething members can request to join your Sweep Squad.

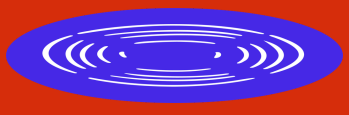
Street Sweep Cleanup Registration

Ripple Effect

Since you've already created a flyer, learn more about how to **create a PSA** to educate your peers on the importance of trash disposal in your community, and how it can lead to real change to protect our waterways.

Submit a Ripple Effect PSA







START STREET SWEEPING

Whether you're going on a solo sweep, or with a Sweep Squad, **gather your tools and supplies, and start removing debris and trash from your streets, sidewalks, parks, or drains** to help prevent it from entering our waterways!

Make sure to have a detailed plan in place for your Street Sweep, including making sure you and/or your Sweep Squad know what to do, and who's doing what!

Here's some things to consider in terms of assigning what needs to be done:

- Are there specific streets, sidewalks or blocks that need to be cleaned?
- Who will pick up and hand out water and snacks to other Sweep Squad volunteers?
- Do you need someone to assist with Sweep Squad volunteer check-in?
- **Someone definitely needs to make sure pictures are taken of the event!** *(As part of earning a volunteer certificate, you will be asked to submit a photo of you and/or your Sweep Squad, and the trash you collected in your cleanup.)
- Who will separate garbage from recyclables (and/or compost) during litter collection?
- **Set the vibe with a Street Sweep playlist and/or snacks!**

More Street Sweep cleanup tips:

Here's some **street cleanup tips** courtesy of Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership:



- If you encounter sharp objects (like needles) **do NOT pick them up**, and report them by calling 3-1-1, or contacting your local non-emergency municipal services.
- If you head into nature, **look out for poison oak**.
- **Dispose of trash in a public garbage can** or your home garbage/recycle bin, not bins on private property.
- **Share your clean up on social media!** Use the hashtag **#StreetSweep #DoSomething** and encourage others to get involved.
- **Avoid areas** where you do **not feel safe**.
- Be aware of traffic and **do not attempt to pick up litter in roadways.**
- In parks, creeks/natural areas, **follow all posted signage** and limit activities to areas open to the public.
- If you clean up a local waterway, be mindful of the conditions and **be careful near the water's edge**.
- Keep a **safe distance from all wildlife**!
- **Leave nature as-is!** Do not pick up or disturb natural objects, such as branches.



YOU DID THAT!

And we want you to **show off and share your Street Sweep cleanup.** Gather your Sweep Squad, hold up or stand next to your collection of trash bags, and **show off what YOU did to clean up your community**.

I/My Sweep Squad collected _____ bags of litter and trash.

Now be sure to submit your photo of your amazing cleanup!

Street Sweep

Check out all the Street Sweeps and their collective impact here:

The Sweep Spot

SAY THANKS

You couldn't have done it on your own!

- Send thank-you notes to your Sweep Squad volunteers
- Even if you went on a solo sweep, send thank-you's to the people who gave you permission and any local businesses that donated supplies to the event.
- Did a parent, friend, sibling, teacher or neighbor help you in any way? Let them know how much you appreciated their time and help.





BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLANET B!

By cleaning up the trash from your streets, parks, and drains, you've done your part to protect our shared bodies of water and our planet.



On behalf of all of us at DoSomething, we THANK YOU for helping to build a safer, kinder, and fairer world.