

Document 3 - Waste types to avoid on litter picks

Contents:

- List of waste types to avoid on litter picks and at all other times.
- Teacher / litter pick leader notes, including definitions of hazardous waste, fly-tipping and information on asbestos.
- Possible questions to ask your group whilst looking at the example pictures.
- Pictures to use in discussions in advance of litter pick: Waste types to avoid.
- Pictures to use in discussions in advance of litter pick: Please collect these items on your litter pick.

If you come across any of these things, please avoid them.

Take a picture from a distance if you can and then report them.

- Asbestos
- Chemical containers / drums
- Vehicle waste such as batteries or oil
- Gas canisters and fluorescent tubes
- Drugs related litter
- Animal waste (see picture with notes for further information)
- Glass (see pictures with notes for further information)
- Any items that are too big or heavy to collect with the litter pickers and may rip the collection bags
- Nappies
- Plastic bags with things inside
- Dead animals
- Any items that you are unsure about

Teacher / litter pick leader notes

Definitions to support your discussions:

What is Hazardous Waste?

Health and Safety Executive

"Waste is considered 'hazardous' under environmental legislation when it contains substances or has properties that might make it harmful to human health or the environment. This does not necessarily mean it is an immediate risk to human health, although some waste can be."

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous material that has been a popular building material since the 1950s (Asbestos can be found in any building built before the year 2000- HSE) It was used as an insulator (to keep in heat and keep out cold), has good fire protection properties and protects against corrosion. It is found in many products used in buildings, including ceiling tiles, pipe insulation, boilers and sprayed coatings.

Asbestos is often mixed with another material, so it is sometimes difficult to tell where it may be within fly-tipped building materials.

Further comments

Materials containing asbestos become a problem when they are disturbed i.e. broken / snapped, or if they start to degrade in some way. When this happens asbestos fibres can be released, which when breathed in can be hazardous to health.

Asbestos must be disposed of very carefully and should only be collected by special companies who have a safe place to take it.

Sometimes, asbestos is not disposed of safely and people fly-tip it!

If you see any fly-tipped asbestos- stay away from these areas and report them- This document provides pictures which show commonly found types of fly-tipped materials containing asbestos.

To find out more about asbestos please see www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos

What is fly tipping?

National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group

"Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. It can vary in scale significantly from a bin bag of rubbish to large quantities of waste dumped from trucks. Fly-tipped waste may be found anywhere, such as roadsides, in lay-bys or on private land.

A wide variety of wastes are fly-tipped. These include rubbish, large domestic items, such as fridges and mattresses, garden refuse, tyres and clinical waste.

Large amounts of waste from construction, demolition and excavation activities are also sometimes dumped.

Fly-tipping poses a threat to humans and wildlife, damages our environment, and spoils our enjoyment of our towns and countryside."

If you see any fly-tips, please stay away from them and report them- Fly tips can contain many potentially dangerous materials. There might be items such as chemicals, asbestos, sharp metal items, gas canisters, and bags of unknown materials.

Questions that you might like to ask your group whilst looking at the hazardous waste example pictures:

- What can you see in the pictures?
- How does this make you feel?
- Who do you think dumped this waste?
- What could be the problem with these types of waste e.g. vehicle batteries, chemical containers, asbestos, heavy / sharp items?
- How would you record these items safely if you spot any hazardous materials on your litter pick?

Please note:

The pictures in the next section are provided to raise awareness about the types of waste to avoid whilst on litter picks and how to report hazardous waste and fly-tips. These locations should be avoided in a litter pick and this should be highlighted during your risk assessment.

After carrying out a risk assessment of your proposed litter pick route, it may be decided that the route is not suitable for your group. If this is the case, please select a more suitable route for your group. Neighbourhood Services can offer advice on possible litter pick locations, including if your proposed route is on Council-owned land. **It is important to establish who owns the land where you plan to litter pick and to gain permission to carry out the activity.**

Please contact Neighbourhood Services on 0345 600 6400 to discuss possible locations for litter picking activities and to report any hazardous waste and / or fly-tipped waste.

Even though these locations should be avoided in your litter pick, it is advised that any class groups that are due to go on a litter pick should have an advanced discussion, using the example pictures, about the potential hazards of waste. This will mean that the children will also know to avoid these things if they are out and about in other locations out of school time.

Warning! Be extremely careful. Some wastes can be hazardous. Do NOT allow children near hazardous waste. Do not open any bags or drums.

Please note the location of the hazardous waste, the waste types and approximate sizes that you can see at a distance and the overall extent of the problem. **Report to Neighbourhood Services on 0345 600 6400.**

See further information in Document 2- 'How to dispose of waste from litter picking activities and reporting hazardous waste items or large items that you cannot collect'



asbestos

Please avoid fly-tipped asbestos on your litter pick and at all other times. Please report it to Neighbourhood Services on 0345 600 6400.





asbestos



Please avoid fly-tipped asbestos on your litter pick and at all other times. Please report it to Neighbourhood Services on 0345 600 6400.



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Chemicals, oils and unlabelled drums / containers



Please avoid these things on your litter pick and report them



Hazardous waste containers and vehicle batteries



Please avoid these things on your litter pick and report them



A large pile of discarded gas canisters and fluorescent tubes. The canisters are in various colors, including white, blue, and yellow, and are scattered across the ground. Some have labels and others are rusted. The fluorescent tubes are white and are also scattered among the canisters.

**Gas canisters and
fluorescent tubes**

Please avoid these things on your litter pick and report them





If you see a needle lying around
don't touch it, tell an adult

Keep Britain Tidy 

High quality litter campaign posters, including drugs related litter, can be ordered from Keep Britain Tidy- www.Keepbritaintidy.org

Tell, don't touch!



If you see a needle,
tell an adult

Keep Britain Tidy 

High quality litter campaign posters, including drugs related litter, can be ordered from
Keep Britain Tidy- www.keepbritaintidy.org

Fly-tipping at Lynemouth Beach in Northumberland!



Fridge

What can you see in this picture?
How does this make you feel?

Please avoid fly-tip areas on your
litter pick and report to
Neighbourhood Services on
0345 600 6400

Fly-tipped waste can also be
reported online at
www.northumberland.gov.uk

Glass on your litter pick route

It would be useful to have the following equipment available on your litter pick:

- A lidded glass collection tub.
- A small dustpan and brush to sweep up any small accumulations of glass. This should be carried out by a responsible adult only and not by the children.

Please do not allow children to pick up glass.

If you would prefer to avoid glass all together on your litter pick route, please note down any areas of concern and report to Neighbourhood Service for a clean-up on **0345 600 6400**

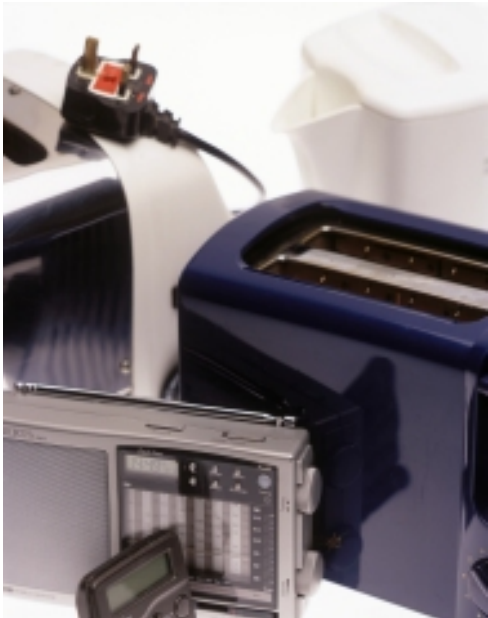




Please avoid these waste types on
your litter pick and report to
Neighbourhood Services on
0345 600 6400



Please avoid these waste types on
your litter pick and report to
Neighbourhood Services on
0345 600 6400





High quality litter campaign posters, including the Dog Poo Fairy, can be ordered from Keep Britain Tidy- www.keepbritaintidy.org

Although your group will be avoiding collecting dog waste/animal waste on your litter pick, this could form part of your discussions about children who have dogs at home and what their families need to be doing with dog waste. Dog waste hot spots can be reported online at www.northumberland.gov.uk

Please collect these things with your litter pickers



Cans

Please collect cans and plastic bottles separately for recycling if possible.



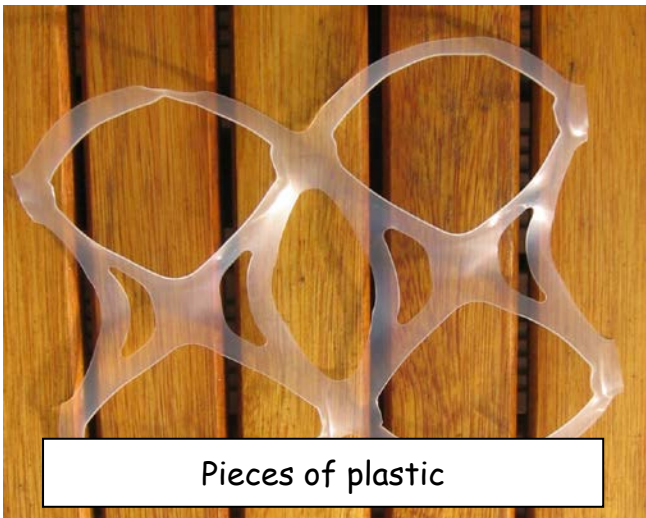
Plastic bottles



Cardboard



Newspapers and magazines



Pieces of plastic



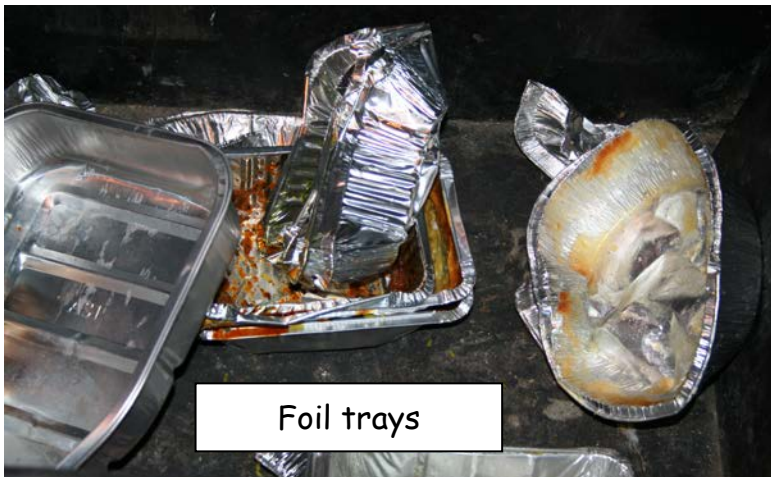
Take-away boxes



Please collect empty plastic bags
Please avoid bags with things inside



Plastic cups, sandwich boxes and
yoghurt pots



Foil trays



Take-away cups and cartons



Sweet wrappers and crisp packets

Please use the correct safety equipment when doing a litter pick

- All items should be collected with litter pickers and not by hand.
- All litter pick participants should also be wearing thick gloves.
- Thick collection bags should be used for the waste.
- It is also advised that high visibility waistcoats are worn.
- Sturdy shoes / boots covering the whole foot.



Picture from the Helping Hand Company