



# Neighborhood Clean-Up



## Introduction

Neighborhood clean-ups can make a bold statement about your neighborhoods commitment to an improved neighborhood appearance. Clean-ups can get people involved and attract the interest of others. A clean neighborhood communicates a sense of pride to visitors and neighbors. A clean neighborhood sends a message to outsiders that this is a neighborhood that cares.

Below is a list of important concepts and steps you can apply to your clean-up.

Step	Explanation
<b>Identify clean-up boundaries</b>	The idea is to control the boundaries of your clean up so a visual impact is made while avoiding taking on too large of an area. You don't want to make your clean-up area too big, because you may not have enough time or people. If the area is too small, you may not accomplish a major impact in your neighborhood. Think about how much a volunteer could do in a two to three hour time frame and then consider how many people will actually be involved.
<b>Discuss what activities your volunteers will take on during the clean up</b>	Will they pick up broken glass? Will it just be paper and cans? What about large items such as boxes or tires? A lot depends on the ability of your volunteers, but also on your ability to haul thing away. Arranging pick up sticks, work gloves, shovels and other items will allow for more types of things being picked up.
<b>Set the date of your event</b>	Saturday mornings are the best. Be sure you give enough lead time for volunteers. Three week notices should be enough unless you have planned a very large event. A small clean up event such as your immediate street may require less advance notice.
<b>Purchase and reserve required items</b>	Make a list of things you need and purchase them ahead of time. If you are renting or borrowing items, pick them up as early as possible. You will find items have a way of not being available if you wait until the last minute.
<b>Refreshments</b>	Keep it simple, but water is necessary even in cool weather. Designate volunteers to organize and handout the refreshments. Provide tables and chairs for the refreshments. If unpackaged food is distributed, make sure the volunteers use plastic gloves when handling the food.



## Neighborhood Appearance Neighborhood Clean-up

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<b>Refreshments</b> (Continued)	Shade is also a consideration and if you are serving cooked food, a canopy may be required for the serving area. The area should be shaded for people to cool off while stopping for refreshments.
<b>Ensure a successful turn-out</b>	If you have a mailing list, send out notices to potential volunteers at least three weeks in advance. Make phone calls to volunteers two weeks in advance. Let them know how important the event is and how you need them to help. If you can afford to, send out a reminder one week in advance. Send out an email blast to everyone two days before the event. Don't be afraid to knock on doors or distribute flyers in your neighborhood to convince people to participate.
<b>Direct the activity</b>	As the event organizer, your primary role is not to pick up garbage, but to keep the event running smoothly. You should be available to do the prep work for the event and to manage the process. This becomes even more important when your area is large, covering numerous streets. People may need supplies and refreshments brought to them by you or other volunteers. They may have questions about what to pick-up or leave alone. As the leader you need to float around and make sure needs are being met. It would also be a good idea to recruit an assistant to help you cover all the responsibilities.
<b>Recruiting outside volunteers</b>	If your neighborhood has an aging population or not many people capable of volunteering, talk to local churches, school, or civic groups. They may have an interest in providing volunteers to help your cause.
<b>Suggested items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Gloves</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> First Aide Kit</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pick-up Sticks</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bug Spray</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Insect Propellant</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Safety Tips</li></ul>
<b>Additional Tools</b>	<b>Tool Box Items</b> <i>Neighborhood Management: Getting Media Attention</i> <b>On-line Neighborhood Library Items</b> <i>None at this time</i>