

Adopt-A-Highway Safety Tips



The Do's and Don'ts of Highway Litter Pickup

DON'T...

- Don't pick up litter on the roadway surface.
- Don't pick up litter close to the edge of the road or on medians, unless discussed with your Adopt-A-Highway coordinator beforehand.
- Don't pick up litter in construction sites, under tunnels, or on bridges or overpasses.
- Don't cross the highway unnecessarily. Designated crossing locations should be determined by your work leader prior to starting work.
- Don't play around or do anything that will distract passing drivers or other volunteers.
- Don't work during peak traffic times or when traffic is heavy. Never schedule pickups during evening hours.
- Don't participate in litter pickups under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or prescription medication.
- Don't bring small children or pets on litter pickups.
- Don't leave children or pets locked in the car at work locations.
- Don't pick up materials that you suspect might be hazardous or containers with unknown substances.
- Don't pick up used syringes unless you follow the specific recommendations on the attached flyer from the Department of Health and Social Services.
- Don't pick up dead animals. Notify DOT&PF if you encounter a dead animal.
- Don't try to pick up heavy objects. Use correct lifting techniques, keeping your back as straight as possible. Keep the object you are trying to lift close to your body and let your legs and arms do the work.

DO...

- Use sunblock and wear a hat.
- Work only in daylight hours.
- Stay alert for noxious weeds and avoid disturbing them.
- Notify your Adopt-A-Highway coordinator about your pickup.
- Make sure all volunteers are familiar with these safety tips.
- Stay alert for traffic when crossing side roads and driveways.
- Carpool to the pickup site to keep the number of vehicles on the road to a minimum. Park off the road as far away from the pavement edge as possible. Use parking lots and wide spots whenever possible.
- Wear reflective safety vests to improve your visibility with passing drivers. Wear it from the moment you leave your vehicle at the pickup site.
- Wear light or bright protective clothing, hard-soled shoes, and sturdy work gloves.