

## Organising a Community Clean-up Event

Thank you for doing your part in keeping Aotearoa/New Zealand clean and healthy. Every little bit of litter picked up and disposed of correctly makes a big difference.

Every year, many hundreds of tonnes of anthropogenic rubbish finds its way into our environment. Much of this rubbish does not biodegrade, or simply breaks down into smaller pieces that end up in the food chain, affecting wildlife, ecosystems, and even humans. Together, we can make a difference to make a cleaner, healthier natural environment.

## Build yourself a Clean-up Kit

It can be useful to have a clean-up kit that can be easily transported around. A stackable 60L clear plastic storage bin with roller wheels works great for this purpose. Suggested contents for a basic kit include: reusable trash bags, reusable sturdy gloves, tarpaulin for sorting trash, first-aid kit, a volunteer sign-up/contact sheet, pens and notebook, hand sanitiser, sunscreen, hi-vis vests.

## OSOF Reusable Bags

OSOF can supply sturdy reusable 60 litre bags for community groups, schools, and other businesses and organisations looking to organise regular clean-up events. Reach out to us to see how we can help with your clean-up event.

## Think Safety First

While picking up litter helps to protect our environment, we also want you to stay safe when out and about.

Below are some easy tips to help ensure that you can keep yourself, and your litter-collecting buddies healthy and safe while enjoying the outdoors.

- Check the tides, weather forecast before heading out, and dress appropriately for the weather.
- Keep well hydrated, and have your personal medications and first aid kit available if needed.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes to help avoid slips and falls, and avoid dangerous terrain.
- Wear sturdy reusable gloves when picking up litter, preferably heavy-duty type gardening gloves that will resist punctures.
- Use a heavy-duty reusable bag for collecting litter that will resist rips and punctures.
- Try to bend at the knees when picking up litter, or consider using a litter pickup tool to avoid back strain.
- Avoid picking up sharp, dangerous, or suspicious looking items.
- If litter looks dangerous or suspicious, leave it and inform your local council with location details as soon as practical.
- Consider going on your litter collecting adventure with a group or with someone you know.

## Responsible Litter Disposal

Consider making a litter management plan as part of your clean-up event. Clean recyclable litter can be diverted to your local council's recycling scheme, while dirty and contaminated litter is best diverted to general litter waste streams. Check with your local council to see how best to manage your litter collection. Keep in mind that dangerous or suspicious looking litter should be reported to your council.

## Share your Events with Us

Share your events and updates with us on social media or by email, we'd love to see your efforts to keep Aotearoa clean, tidy, and healthy. Remember to tag **#OurSeasOurFuture** on your social media and we can showcase your amazing work!

## Useful Links and Contacts

OSOF Website & Email: [www.osof.org](http://www.osof.org) | [info@osof.org](mailto:info@osof.org)

Local Council Contacts: <http://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/>

MetService: <https://www.metservice.com/>

Land Information New Zealand: <https://www.linz.govt.nz/>

Report sick, injured, or dead native wildlife:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/sick-injured-and-dead-wildlife/>

Report non-native wildlife: <https://www.sPCA.nz/>

