



Work only during daylight hours in favorable weather.

Work one side of the road at a time. Do not cross the road to get to your vehicle.

Whenever possible, face oncoming traffic. Stay alert and be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency. Stay with your team.

Do not wear headsets which could prevent you from hearing traffic or other hazards.

Do not crush collected trash to make more room in the bag; broken or jagged objects could cause accidental injuries.

Do not put syringes or hypodermic needles in the trash bag as they can easily puncture the bag and cause serious injury. Inform the Scott County Highway Department of the location.

Do not horse around or do anything to purposely distract drivers.

Groups are not allowed to pickup in medians or construction zones.

Place collected garbage bags near a road sign and off the roadway.



Lifespan of Common Litter

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Aluminum Can | 200-500 years |
| Nylon Fabric | 30-40 years |
| Rubber Boot Sole | 50-80 years |
| Wool Clothing | 1-5 years |
| Plastic Bag | 10-20 years |
| Cotton Rag | 1-5 months |
| Orange or Banana Peel | 2-5 weeks |
| Cigarette Butt | 1-5 years |
| Leather | Up to 50 years |
| Glass Bottle | Apx 1 million years |

Source: California Waste Management Bulletin

Tip for volunteers

Make a bag holder. A simple way to hold your bag open while you work.

- Find a stick that's 1 foot long and 1 inch in diameter
- Place the stick on the outside of your bag an inch or two from the top
- Roll the top of the bag over the stick a couple of times
- You can now hold the bag by the stick.



**SCOTT COUNTY
ADOPT A HIGHWAY
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Safety Tips



Adopt A Highway is a public service program for volunteers to pick up litter along county highways.

For more information, contact the Scott County Highway Department at 952-496-8346



Plan Ahead

- ⇒ Review safety precautions and take them seriously.
- ⇒ Get a supply of bags and safety vests for your crew (available at Scott County libraries or Public Works)
- ⇒ Assign work teams and leaders before you reach the site. Distribute trash bags beforehand. Estimate the amount of time for your pickup and agree on a meeting place when you are done.
- ⇒ Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles along the road. Park vehicles on the shoulder in advance of the area and on the same side of the highway that crews are working.
- ⇒ Bring along an adequate first aid kit. Identify the nearest hospital and know how to get there in an emergency.
- ⇒ Don't overexert yourself. Bring along a supply of drinking water and take breaks as needed.



What to Know

Every crew should possess these qualifications:

- ⇒ At least 12 years of age, unless otherwise permitted.
- ⇒ Adult supervision for all workers under age 18.
- ⇒ Mentally alert; good common sense
- ⇒ Good physical condition, including sight and hearing.
- ⇒ Sense of responsibility for safety of self and others

What to Wear

- ⇒ Heavy gloves
- ⇒ Heavy leather shoes or boots
- ⇒ Light colored clothing
- ⇒ Long sleeves and a hat to prevent sunburn
- ⇒ Sunscreen, insect or tick repellent
- ⇒ At all times, wear the safety vest provided by the Highway Department.

What to Avoid

- ⇒ Stay away from construction sites, mowing activities, open water, bridge overpasses, or retaining walls that could be dangerous for pedestrians.
- ⇒ Avoid poison ivy, wild parsnips, (<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/adopt/documents/wild-parsnips.pdf>) or other noxious weeds.
- ⇒ Stay away from recently applied herbicides.
- ⇒ Never try to pick up heavy or large materials. Notify the Highway Department for pickup.
- ⇒ Examples of hazardous materials to avoid are abandoned barrels, containers containing chemicals or unknown substances, needles or other sharp objects, paint, dead animals and weapons. Notify the Highway Department for pickup.
- ⇒ Any extremely suspicious or obviously dangerous items should NOT be removed— call 911.

Remember



A highway is a dangerous place to be.