

Toolbox Talk

Litter Picking



Litter picking is a necessity to keep the canal towpaths and environs looking tidy and cared for. Work parties carrying out litter picking are very rewarding and can be an enjoyable social activity. All you need is a litter picker and a bag to put the litter in.

However there are safety issues that need to be addressed, such as:

- Contaminated material and faeces
- sharp objects
- heavy objects
- working near water
- uneven ground

Risk assessment:

A risk assessment will be carried out in order to identify any hazards associated with the litter pick and to put in place measures to control the risk.

Before the litter pick starts all volunteers will be briefed on the risk assessment.



Photo, Vernon Draper IWA Milton Keynes Branch



An essential piece of equipment is a litter picker

What to wear:

You should dress in clothes appropriate to the weather conditions that you don't mind getting a bit dirty.

Gloves are a must because you don't want to handle any of the litter that might be wet or contaminated.

You should also wear stout footwear that will allow you to cope with any uneven or wet ground.

Sharps:

Sharp objects need special attention and need to be placed in a 'sharps box'. Don't pick up sharps by hand and take care with any needles found. If you are unsure ask for help.



Working near water:

When working near water, keep away from the water's edge and always face the water. **Never** work alone and make sure you keep in sight of others.

At the end of the day enjoy a cuppa



Photo, Les Franklin IWA Milton Keynes Branch