Tools and Safety Equipment

**Tools that your volunteers will find useful include:**
- Trash bags
- 5-gallon buckets (a more sustainable option than using trash bags)
- Litter pickers
- Rakes
- Flat tipped shovels

**Suggested safety equipment for your cleanup include:**
- Gloves
- Traffic vests
- Cones
- Roadwork signs (for road side cleanups)

**Please note that other safety equipment may be needed depending on what you are cleaning and where.**

►►► **DO's ►►►

**Group Leader:**
- Conduct a safety talk orientation so volunteers understand how to safely pick-up litter
- Know emergency procedures, location of nearest emergency facility and how to quickly summon emergency services
- Have a first aid kit and mobile phone on hand
- Provide adequate adult supervision if you involve youth groups in litter removal (e.g., at least 1 adult to 8 participants between the ages of 10 - 17)
- Reconvene each hour to ensure all participants are accounted for, safe & enjoying the cleanup
- Consider using walkie-talkies as a communication device between groups
- Arrange a "Thank You" party for all of the volunteers after the cleanup
- Take BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER pictures to show off your work!

**Individuals:**
- Wear gloves; thick-soled, closed shoes; long pants; and long-sleeved shirts
- Wear safety vests or bright colors for roadside cleanups
- Wear sunscreen and bug repellent
- Drink plenty of fluids and keep "quick energy foods" on hand
- Be aware of your surroundings and potential hazards (e.g., passing cars, poison ivy, overgrown vegetation)
- Use the "buddy system" working in teams of two or three to maximize safety
- Wash hands with antibacterial soap after the cleanup
- Bag litter to meet local regulations

►►► **DON'Ts ►►►

**Group Leader:**
- Don't schedule cleanups during peak pedestrian or traffic hours
- Don't conduct cleanups during extremely inclement weather (if possible)
- Don't allow small children to participate in cleanups near major traffic corridors

**Individuals:**
- Don't pick up hazardous materials like hypodermic needles, sharp objects, condoms, animal carcasses or other questionable items-- Report to Team Leader
- Don't overstuff bags
- Don't attempt to move large objects -- call your local fire or police department to report illegal dumping and for instructions on how to proceed
- Don't bring pets, as they may distract participants or even detract from the cleanup
- Don’t overdo it physically