

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Litter Cleanup Guidance

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as PPE includes face masks, single use gloves, and disinfectant wipes. Below are some recommendations for keeping you safe while picking up PPE litter.

- Since the PPE was irresponsibly littered you should assume it is contaminated.
- To minimize physical contact with the littered PPE, use a litter collection device such as a litter grabber, broom/shovel, litter stick, etc. to carefully pick up the PPE and place into a collection container. Don't have a litter grabber? Consider using an old kitchen tong that you can dedicate to litter collection.
- If using single use gloves, pick-up the PPE, place it in a litter collection container, and then remove your single-use gloves and dispose immediately after picking up the PPE. Be sure to follow the proper method of glove removal and disposal – see below. Replace your gloves if you plan to continue to pick up litter.
- In an abundance of caution or if you don't have work gloves or access to a litter collection device, carry a spray bottle of disinfectant. Prior to handling the littered PPE spray it with the disinfectant, let sit for the recommended time on the label, and then pick-up the "treated" PPE.
- Properly collected PPE should be disposed in litter collection bags/containers and placed into a proper trash can. PPE is considered municipal solid waste and does not need to be disposed of as medical waste.
- Immediately after picking up the littered PPE, wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Repeat when finishing your litter collection activities.
- If you encounter any medical or hazardous waste, firearms, or explosives report the location to local authorities and have them remove the littered items.

How to Remove Single Use Gloves

1. Grip one glove on the outside of the glove near the cuff.
2. Peel it down until it comes off inside out.
3. Cup the removed glove with your gloved hand.
4. Place fingers from your bare hand inside the cuff of the glove that you have on. Be sure to not touch any damp or contaminated areas of the glove.
5. Peel that glove off so that it comes off inside out, touching only the inside of the glove you are removing keeping the other glove inside it.
6. Dispose of the gloves in a trash container.
7. Wash your hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



1 Grasp the outside of one glove at the wrist. Do not touch your bare skin.



2 Peel the glove away from your body, pulling it inside out.



3 Hold the glove you just removed in your gloved hand.



4 Peel off the second glove by putting your fingers inside the glove at the top of your wrist.



5 Turn the second glove inside out while pulling it away from your body, leaving the first glove inside the second.



6 Dispose of the gloves safely. Do not reuse the gloves.



7 Clean your hands immediately after removing gloves.