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TRASH TALK WITH THE LITTER HERO

A HILLSBOROUGH CLEAN COMMUNITIES PUBLICATION



5 Ways You Can Still Participate In The Hillsborough Township Clean Communities First Litter Awareness Day!

WRITTEN BY SHEILA CASTELLANO,
HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP CLEAN COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

With the World and Nation on high alert regarding COVID-19, otherwise known as the Coronavirus pandemic, many communities, businesses, schools, government agencies and the like have had to shut down or limit their operations in an effort to “flatten the curve”. While social distancing is a key part of the equation, it is equally important for people to feel normal and be able to get outdoors to enjoy some fresh air and exercise. Following are 5 ways you can help the environment and get some of that needed fresh air.



First, let's define what litter is?

Litter is simply trash that ends up in the wrong place.

Why is it important to pick up litter?

Littering is not only unsightly and distracts from the beauty of our community, it also contributes to many health hazards and affects people, plants and animals.

So what can you do during this time of social distancing to help?

1. Take a walk around your property with a garbage bag and see how much litter you can find and pick it up. Look along the ditch or curb line to see if there is anything that needs to be cleaned up.

Recycle any plastic material and throw the rest out in your trash. Make sure you use gloves and be careful not to touch anything dangerous.

2. Get the kids involved! Educate yourself and your kids. Read up on litter facts, like "How long does it take a particular item to decompose?", "What is the most littered item?", "How much litter is dumped in the ocean each year?", or "What is the average number of steps a person will take holding trash before they litter?". Then you can quiz them (and yourself) to see how much you have learned.

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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR YOUR TRASH TO BIODEGRADE?

FRUIT PEEL
2-5 WEEKS

CIGARETTE BUTT
1-5 YEARS

PLASTIC BAG
10-20 YEARS

SODA CAN
80-200 YEARS

PLASTIC BOTTLE
450 YEARS

THINK ABOUT IT  **MAKE AN IMPACT**



3. Talk to your neighbors and friends on the phone, facetime or social media and share ways they can make a difference in their environment.

4. Make sure your garbage and recycling bins have lids so the items inside don't blow around and end up as litter.

5. Finally, once this pandemic has passed, reunite with people to do a cleanup in your area or contact The Hillsborough Clean Communities team to see how you can get involved. Keep a litter bag in your car so you can do your part when you are out and about.

Here are some safety tips you should adhere to while picking up litter.

- Do Your Research: Read safety information and familiarize yourself with the risks that could occur during a litter cleanup.
- Prepare: Dress in appropriate clothing, such as long pants and sturdy shoes, and use safety materials, like gloves and pickers.
- Be Aware of Your Surroundings: Pay attention to on-coming traffic on roadways, animals and insects and hazardous plants in brush and take appropriate precautions.

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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR YOUR TRASH TO BIODEGRADE?

FOAM CUP
50 YEARS

LEATHER SHOE
50 YEARS

DIAPER
450 YEARS

FISHING LINE
600 YEARS

GLASS BOTTLE
1 MILLION YEARS

THINK ABOUT IT  **MAKE AN IMPACT**



- Lookout for Hazardous Materials: Look for any suspicious or hazardous materials you may find and do not attempt to collect them without the appropriate precautions.
- Social Distancing: Remember during this time to refrain from cleaning up next to someone else. Please remain 6 feet from the nearest person and practice social distancing!

Other safety information can be found on the Hillsborough Township Clean Communities website at <https://www.hillsborough-nj.org/wp-content/uploads/Clean-Communities-Safety-Information-Poster.pdf>

And remember, Safety First!!

Thank you to all the people who pick up roadside trash, park trash and trash in their own yards deposited there by neighbors, garbage and recycling trucks and other inconsiderate drive by litter tossers. The world is definitely a cleaner place because of you.



"THANK YOU FOR BEING A LITTER HERO!"

KAPTAIN CLEANUP

