

All cleanup groups should designate a group leader. Your group leader should follow these general guidelines to ensure the safety of the volunteers:

- Don't schedule cleanups during peak traffic hours or bad weather.
- Don't conduct cleanups near or around construction or heavy traffic areas.
- Be aware of known allergies of volunteers before participation.
- Know emergency procedures, such as the location of the nearest facility and how to quickly summon the police or ambulance.
- **Have a first aid kit and cell phone on hand.**
- Provide adequate adult supervision to minors.
- Reconvene every hour to ensure all participants are accounted for and safe.
- Remind all volunteers to watch for and **NOT TO TOUCH** potentially hazardous items such as meth lab litter, weapons, bulging containers, hypodermic needles, automotive batteries, dead animals, etc.

Thank you to the University of Nebraska Extension

For more information or additional brochures, please contact the Buffalo County UW-Extension Office — 608-685-6256.

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METH LAB LITTER



and SAFETY RULES

**Keeping volunteers
safe and healthy
during litter cleanups**

Common Methamphetamine Lab Waste

Many groups including 4-H clubs and even families conduct roadside cleanups as a form of community service. There is a growing concern for the safety of these individuals because of the potentially hazardous methamphetamine (meth) lab waste materials being tossed away along our roadsides.

To ensure the safety of your fellow volunteers, please use the following guidelines to stay safe and healthy:

- Wear gloves.
- Wear long pants and thick-soled, closed shoes (NO sandals!).
- Wear safety vests or bright colors.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the potential hazards associated with them (e.g., passing cars, poison ivy, meth lab litter products, etc.).
- Use the “buddy system”. Work in teams of two or three to maximize safety.
- Wash hands and arms with antibacterial soap after cleanup.
- Don't bring pets.
- Don't attempt to move large objects such as old appliances, etc.



Cold/allergy medicine packaging



Bottles or containers connected with rubber hosing or duct tape; Empty containers from: Heet, antifreeze, ether, starting fluids, Freon, lye, drain openers, paint thinner, acetone, or alcohol



Coffee filters (or sheets) with white pasty or powdery or red substance



Coolers, thermos bottles, or other cold storage containers



Propane tanks

Note: *You need to be concerned only if you find a combination of these items in a limited area.*

Other potential meth lab littered items to be aware of:

- Compressed gas cylinders or camp stove (Coleman) fuel containers
- Packaging from Epsom salt, rock salt, iodized salt or table salt
- Pyrex/glass/Corning containers with dried chemical deposits remaining
- Respiratory masks and filters or dust masks
- Funnels, hosing and clamps

What to do if you find any potential meth lab litter:

- **Do NOT touch or smell any potential meth litter items!**
- Move away from the immediate area and call the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department at 608-685-4433, or call 911 in an emergency.
- Warn other volunteers to stay away from the area.
- Tie a flag on a nearby highway marker or other object as identification of the location for law enforcement authorities.