



2860 E. Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



Pickup Dates! April 1 - April 15 AND September 1 - September 15

Quick Facts

Life Span of Litter

Item	Decomposition
Plastic bottles & Styrofoam.....	Indefinitely
Glass bottles.....	1,000 years
Plastic six-pack holders.....	450 years
Aluminum cans.....	200-500 years
Rubber boot soles.....	50-80 years
Leather.....	up to 50 years
Nylon fabric	30-40 years
Plastic bags	10-20 years
Wool socks.....	1-5 years
Cigarette butts	1-5 years
Orange & banana peels.....	2-5 weeks

SPRING 2023

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Plan to do your clean up in the next few weeks.
- Review Safety Tips.
- Contact us if bags and vests are needed.
- Contact Mike Juengling after cleaning roads to have your trash picked up.
- Contact us if you no longer wish to participate.

BERRIEN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT



Please note Cleanup dates!!

Dear Volunteers:

The Berrien County Road department is continuing with cleanup dates during specific times of the year. Please do your road cleanups between April 1st and April 15th, as well as between September 1st and September 15th.

In the past, cleanup efforts were scheduled by each individual group. However, with less BCRD personnel available during the summer construction season the BCRD wishes to change to predetermined cleanup dates in the Spring and Fall.

Your efforts as Adopt-A-Road volunteers play a **key** role in preserving the natural beauty of this area! This program gets you directly involved with your community and demonstrates your commitment and pride for the area in which you live and work. We hope your efforts will inspire others to become involved and take interest in the preservation of our environment.

Your efforts are working! According to recent surveys, Michigan has seen a 30% reduction in litter since the inception of the Adopt-A-

Road program in 1992. This is in addition to the 40% reduction due to Michigan's bottle law introduced in 1978.

Michael Juengling

Important Safety Tips

When you received your original information packets, there was a list of safety tips and guidelines to help your group have a successful cleanup. If you still have this information it would be a good idea to review it with your group, especially if you have new participants. If you would like another copy of this material, contact me and I will see that you receive a new copy.

Remember to **face oncoming traffic** whenever possible as this will help you anticipate a potential emergency situation. Also, try to park your vehicles out of the way of traffic and be careful not to obstruct the vision of passing motorists near intersections and driveways. Please car-pool to your destination to limit the number of parked vehicles.



Please learn to identify these poisonous plants and avoid them!

Another problem you may encounter on your cleanup is "road kill". **Please do not handle dead animals.**

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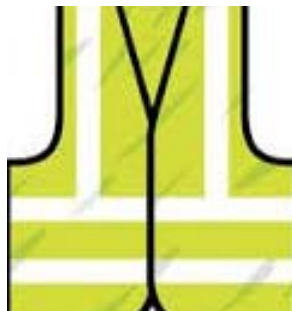
Important Safety Tips (cont.)



Do NOT handle medical waste!

Bags & Vests are available if needed.

Contact Michael now so you'll be ready for your Fall pick up!



Wear your Safety Vest

Also, **avoid any hazardous materials.** Do not pick up discarded syringes, hypodermic needles, or any other medical waste. If you find any of these materials, please contact our office.

Remember to **wear appropriate clothing** during your cleanup. There may be hidden dangers in ditches, brush and with handling debris. Please urge your participants to wear sturdy footwear (such as boots) and gloves. Cans can be rusty, bottles can be broken and mown brush can be sharp. Also, beware of holes that animals may have dug. You don't want a twisted ankle to end your trash cleanup.

A question we often get concerns the age of participants. While we advise you to keep your minimum age to 16, we have made exceptions down to age 12, providing that there is parental or adult supervision for the children. This does not mean 1 adult for 10 children. We prefer you have 1 adult for every 4 children. This will help to insure safe

practices for all involved.

Try to **avoid cleanups in bad weather.** Remember, most accidents occur in bad weather, so there is no reason to expose your members to this increased risk. Also, try to avoid extreme weather conditions such as intense heat or cold. In hot weather, avoid over exertion and drink plenty of fluids. In cold weather, wear sufficient layers of clothing and protect extremities from direct exposure.

Do not use headphones to listen to music! You must be aware of traffic and warnings from other members.

Wear your safety vests! Please try to keep track of these vests and save them for your next cleanup. This helps us reduce costs. If you need more vests, please let us know.

Please stay out of the roadway and remain on the shoulder area to do your cleanup. Avoid tunnels, bridges and overpasses as these areas are especially dangerous.

Following these simple guidelines will allow you to have a successful and safe cleanup!

IF YOUR SIGNS ARE FADED OR DAMAGED AND NEED TO BE REPLACED, LET US KNOW ASAP!

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO CLEAN YOUR ROAD, PLEASE LET US KNOW!!

Contact Michael Juengling at:
269-925-1196 ext 4424
mjuengling@bcroad.org

Welcome NEW Members!

BUCHANAN WESTERNERS RIDING CLUB

1.7 miles of MEAD ROAD

FAMILY CHIMNEY SWEEPS LLC

2 miles of CLEVELAND AVENUE

THE SITTIG FAMILY

1.2 miles of MARTIN ROAD

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - ALGONQUIN CHAPTER

0.58 miles of FAIRPLAIN DRIVE

LAKESHORE LIONS CLUB

0.8 miles of JOHN BEERS ROAD

O'BRIEN / FOSTER FAMILY

1.2 miles of DANIEL BOONE TRAIL

Meth Lab Waste

Methamphetamine is made in illegal laboratories and has a high potential for abuse and addiction. Methamphetamine is closely related chemically to amphetamine, but the central nervous system effects of methamphetamine are greater. Street methamphetamine is referred to by many names, such as "speed," "meth," and "chalk." Methamphetamine hydrochloride, clear chunky crystals resembling ice, which can be inhaled by smoking, is referred to as "ice," "crystal," "glass," and "tina."

Over 300 different chemicals can be used in the production of the drug depending on the procedure used. The waste can be disposed of in many different ways, sometimes on the side of the road. The following reviews some of the waste generated by Methamphetamine Labs.

- Plastic pop/juice/water bottles with tubing coming out of the top.
- Propane cylinders (typical of gas grills) used to transport anhydrous ammonia. This ammonia can burn your skin and cause very severe respiratory damage. These tanks, when used with the brass fitting, can explode when moved. The ammonia degrades the brass to the point where it can blow the fitting out of the tank, endangering individuals in the area.

The brass fittings on the tanks will turn a blue to blue green color. Some tanks have been modified with other fittings. If you find cylinders, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to the nearest law enforcement agency.

- Coffee filters with red stains/powder or white residue.
- Empty medicine boxes and blister packs for over the counter cold and asthma medicines (products that contain ephedrine or pseudoephedrine).
- Lithium batteries that appear to be unrolled.
- Bags containing a reddish/white powder.
- Respirator masks.
- Rubber gloves.
- Plastic or rubber tubing, hoses, and clamps.
- Pyrex glass, Corning ware, or other glass cookware.
- Bed sheets or pillow cases stained red or containing a white powdery residue.
- Engine starting fluid cans (punctured and drained of ethyl ether).
- Empty drain cleaner containers (lye).
- Kitty litter.

- Empty bottles of 'rubbing' alcohol, acetone, toluene, or paint thinner.
- Empty cans of Coleman/Camping fuel (naphtha).
- Empty containers of sulfuric, muriatic, or phosphoric acid.

If you come across what appears to be meth lab waste, DO NOT TOUCH IT, and report the location to your supervisor and local law enforcement agency.



We'd like to hear from you!

Send us your news and photos as you pick up litter throughout 2023. We'd like to hear if you have an interesting experience, or find an unusual piece of trash – really, no kidding! Are you celebrating an anniversary as volunteers – let us know. Just send an e-mail about your group news to traffic@bcroad.org