Bag It, Move It or Leave It?
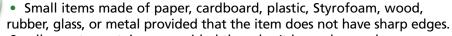
Adopt-a-Highway instructions for handling roadside litter

ADOPT A HIGHWAY
Volunteers Cleaning Virginia
1-800-PRIDE-VA

If you've ever wondered what to do with something you've found on the roadside, consult the list below to find out whether it is an item you should bag, an item you should move and stack alongside your stacked bags or an item you should leave where you found it. Make a note of any item you are leaving and mark it with a trash bag if you think a VDOT crew would have trouble finding it.

Bag It

These items may be placed in a bag:

- Small items made of paper, cardboard, plastic, Styrofoam, wood, rubber, glass, or metal provided that the item does not have sharp edges.
- Small, empty containers provided they don't have sharp edges.

Move It

These items should be placed alongside your stacked bags at the edge of the shoulder:

- Items with dull, pointed edges that might tear a bag.
- Large items that would prevent a bag from being properly tied closed.
- Heavy items that could tear a bag, provided that the item can be moved without causing physical injury.
- Containers that are not empty if the contents won't spill when moved and you can identify the product as one that is not hazardous. If you suspect that an item contains urine, do not move it.

If in doubt, leave it alone!

Leave It

These items should be left where found without taking further action:

- **Sharp, large, or heavy items** that could cause physical injury if moved.
- Any item in an **unsafe location** (within six feet of a traffic lane, on unstable ground, etc.).

Report these items to your local VDOT office that day, or on the next working day, during normal business hours.

- Items you are not permitted to bag or move that will **not be easily visible** to the VDOT crew collecting your filled bags. If possible place a filled bag near to the item to mark its location.
- Securely close items containing hazardous substances.*

Report these items to your local VDOT office that same day. If you are unable to speak directly with a VDOT employee, call 911 to report the item:

- Any item that you **cannot identify** and **suspect may be hazardous**.
- Unclosed or leaking items containing **hazardous substances.***

Call 911 if you find the following kinds of items. If you do not have access to a cell phone then someone other than your group leader must leave the site to make a call. Then, unless advised to leave the area, the leader must stay at the site until a law enforcement officer or VDOT representative arrives.

- Items with a **hazardous material label.***
- Items that could pose an **immediate danger.***
- Items that could be **crime-scene evidence.***
- Items emitting a **strong odor.**

* Keep a safe distance away from the item and do not disturb it in any way!

Items of Concern

Item	Leave It	Leave It and Call VDOT During Business Hours	Leave It and Call VDOT That Day	Leave It and Call 911 Immediately
Miscellaneous Items				
Broken glass	✔			
Any item you cannot identify and suspect of being hazardous			✔	
Hazardous Substances				
Spills of liquid and powdery substances			✔	
Fuels		✔ (If securely contained)	✔ (If opened and leaking)	
Motor oils, transmission fluid, petroleum products		✔ (If securely contained)	✔ (If opened and leaking)	
Antifreeze		✔ (If securely contained)	✔ (If opened and leaking)	
Batteries		✔ (If securely contained)	✔ (If opened and leaking)	
Flares		✔		
Paint		✔ (If securely contained)	✔ (If opened and leaking)	
Aerosol can (not empty)		✔		
Human urine, feces, blood waste (gauze, etc.)		✔ (If securely contained)	✔ (If opened and leaking)	
Syringes, labeled medicines (aspirin, prescription drugs, etc.)		✔		
Animal carcasses		✔		
Extremely Hazardous Items / Possible Crime Scene Evidence				
Bloody items that may be crime scene evidence				✔
Explosives, possible bombs (capped pipes, wrapped packages, etc.)				✔
Weapons (guns, knives, etc.) unspent ammunition				✔
Items with hazardous material labels				✔
Unlabeled medicines or medicine bottles, marijuana, drug paraphernalia				✔
Animals that may have been poached				✔
Propane gas tanks				✔
Full cat litter bags				✔
Containers of acid			✔	
Items put together with duct tape			✔	
Containers with tubing attached				✔
Closed tool boxes or coolers				✔