



Things to bring:

- Your risk assessment for the beach.
- Pens and paper – for everyone to record all the litter they collect.
- Bin bags!
- Any beach-cleaning equipment you have access to (you might be able to borrow some from the council or landowner). A good pair of gardening gloves is sufficient, but you could also bring litter pickers and bag hoops (these hold bin bags open on a windy day).
- Clipboards to lean on when recording the litter.
- Weighing scales to weigh your haul at the end of the day.
- If you can, bring a first-aid kit, a sharps box (for syringes and needles) and a bucket for glass and non-medical sharps.
- Survey forms (if you're in the UK use those provided on the MCS website; if you live elsewhere then use theirs as a template).
- Parental consent forms for under 16s.

Get to the beach in plenty of time so you can do a recce for hazards and set up your 100-metre survey section and so you're there for your keenest volunteers. When everyone's arrived, start the briefing.

## How to Do a Briefing

It's really important to brief your volunteers before they get cleaning. They need to know what they're doing, why and how – as well as all the risks and how to keep safe. Here are some of the key points you should cover:

- Introduce yourself.
- Provide a bit of background talk about the issue of marine litter and why recording the litter you find is so important. You can mention anything you know about your local area too – what you've found on your beach in the past, any local issues or stats, whether there are any litter campaigns in your area.
- Go over the key health and safety issues, including any risks particular to the beach.
- Explain the survey form and how to use it
- You could run a competition for the highest number of items recorded – NB this is number of items, not weight. This encourages people to follow the correct methodology by picking up as much as they can find, and also to tally up their survey forms, saving you some time at the end!
- Ask the volunteers if they consent to you documenting the beach clean through photographs online.
- Give them a time to meetback at the start point.

