

## How to run a Neighbourhood Litter Count

Why not get your school, sports team, neighbours or workplace involved in a Neighbourhood Litter Count (NLC).

By undertaking a local litter count you can identify key litter issues and work together to find ways to reduce waste and litter in your area.

Don't forget to download the 'how to run a tidy up' booklet available on the Keep Australia Beautiful website ([kab.org.au](http://kab.org.au)) so you can safely clean up the litter following your count.

You can also compare your local results with your state or the national average by viewing the latest National Litter Index results on the Keep Australia Beautiful website.

Run regular NLCs (every 3 months) to record improvements, or ongoing litter issues that may need to be addressed with your local council, following your commitment to the waste reduction challenge.

Download the NLC form, fill it out, then scan and email it back to [admin@kab.org.au](mailto:admin@kab.org.au) or post it back to the address below with any other information or photos you may like to include.

Keep Australia Beautiful  
PO Box W268  
Parramatta NSW 2150

When undertaking Neighbourhood Litter Counts, participants should observe the following points:

1. Only survey safe areas, for example, car parks, beaches, residential areas and playgrounds. Avoid roadsides and industrial areas.
2. You should only do the count once and then clear up the area and measure (using a standard bucket) the volume in litres collected.
3. The count should be conducted in a square or rectangular area (say 100 x 50 m) with the corners marked.
4. The selected area should be measured and the area calculated ( $100 \times 50 = 5,000$  square metres).
5. The count should then be conducted by walking over the area (2 m strips) without removing material.
6. The count should be recorded on the standard form below.
7. After the count, the site should be cleaned up and the material measured for volume and then properly disposed of.
8. The results should be totalled and corrected to a 1,000 square metre basis (result x 1000 / area in square metres).
9. The team should then check the result and write a short report on why the result is better or worse, for example, no bins in the area, regular council clean ups, recent heavy rain, etc.

Date of count: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of area monitored: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

TASK 1: Define count area to review on a periodic basis (measure it carefully)

TASK 2: Calculate the conversion to 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> to allow valid comparisons with national and state averages

TASK 3: Count the different types of litter found. Keep a running tally and total each category

TASK 4: Add up numbers of all items and monitor totals over time

LITTER CATEGORIES	RUNNING TALLY	TOTAL ITEMS	% OF TOTAL
<b>GLASS</b>			
1 Alcohol bottles (beer, mixers, etc)			
2 Water and soft drink bottles			
3 Other glass (jars, etc)			
<b>METAL</b>			
4 Metal bottle tops and can pull rings			
5 Metal pieces (hub caps, machine parts, metal parts of a lighter)			
6 Other metal (aerosol cans, drink cans, foil)			
<b>PLASTIC</b>			
7 Confectionery wrappers / chip packets			
8 Plastic bottle tops			
9 Plastic bags			
10 Other plastic (straws, drink bottles)			
<b>PAPER / CARDBOARD</b>			
11 Cigarette packets			
12 Cups / takeaway containers			
13 Other (newspapers, mail, junk mail, shopping docketts, paper bags, boxes)			
<b>CIGARETTE BUTTS</b>			
14 Cigarette butts			
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
15 Miscellaneous items (clothing, rags, cotton wool, ice cream sticks, syringes)			
16 Illegal dumping (car batteries, car parts, furniture, bags of rubbish)			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>100%</b>