



Clean-Up Event Safety Guidelines

DO

- * Think safety - wear gloves, thick-soled, closed toe shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- * Wear Safety vests or bright colors.
- * Wear sunscreen and bug repellent.
- * Be aware of your surroundings and the potential hazards associated with them, such as traffic, hazardous tree branches and wasps or bees.
- * Work in teams of two or three to maximize safety.
- * Keep pre-moistened towelettes on hand and wash hands with antibacterial soap after the cleanup.
- * Take an occasional break.

DON'T

- * Don't pick up hazardous materials such as hypodermic needles, sharp objects, old car batteries, dead animals or other unidentified, questionable objects.
- * Don't conduct your cleanup during bad weather.
- * Don't allow small children to participate without supervision.
- * Don't overstuff bags.
- * Don't attempt to move large, heavy objects without help.
- * Don't overdo it physically.
- * Don't forget to have fun and take pride in your neighborhood.

Have a safe, successful event.



Information from the Oak Park Health Department

BRUSH CONTROL

The appearance of your property is important. Overgrown bushes can be annoying as well as unsightly. In some cases, out-of-control bushes can hinder a driver's line of sight or scratch passing cars. If you trim your plants on a regular basis, this problem will not "grow" into a major project.

To properly dispose of yardwaste, business locations should contact their private hauler or residential locations can attach a GREEN YARDWASTE STICKER on each kraft paper yardwaste bag, any 32-gallon container or a bundle of brush (use twine for a bundle measuring up to 2' in diameter and 4' in length). Place yardwaste next to your refuse cart for pickup on regular collection days. Yardwaste Stickers are available at Jewel stores, Dominicks, Dressel's Ace Hardware, Fair Share Finer Foods and Village Hall Cashier's Office for \$1.95 each.

Pest Control

Improper storage of garbage can result in an increase in pests such as flies, rats, and nuisance wildlife such as squirrels and raccoons. Left unchecked, these pests can become a public health issue. These pests are attracted to trash piles, open garbage cans and unkempt fence rows. Rodent control is the responsibility of everyone, because rats respect no real estate, Village or political boundaries.

Area-wide cooperation between Oak Park residents and the Village can have a significant impact in reducing or eliminating rat infestations. The Oak Park Department of Public Health provides rat control along major transportation routes, in public areas, in sewer systems and on the exterior of private property when assistance is requested. Three principles necessary for effective rat control are:

1. **Eliminate sources of food.** Deposit all garbage in an approved container and keep lids tightly closed. Do not store garbage in cardboard, plastic or paper bags. Pick up fallen debris and pet manure. Put left-over pet food away. Do not use food wastes as ingredients in compost piles.
2. **Adequate rat proofing.** Install a barrier around the foundation of house, garage or other structure. Elevate garbage containers (12" to 18") above the ground or onto concrete or blacktop surfaces. Repair openings in building foundations, around augers, pipes or wires from the exterior.
3. **Remove shelter.** Cut and remove overgrown grass, weeds and brush. Break up dense plantings or shrubbery with exposed pathways. Remove junk autos and bulk refuse items from property.

A good rat control program must utilize all these practices in order to be successful. However, these precautions are also very useful to control other pests in your alleyways. You can make a difference. For more information, contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health at 708.358.5480.