



# It's Time

## To Stop Littering

### Join the Great Global Cleanup Challenge

April 2021



# تو وقتته

## حافظوا على النظافة

Our pollution problem is getting out of hand and our environment is suffering for it. This pandemic has not stopped the pollution of our environment — but fortunately it doesn't have to stop us either. Cleanups are still possible and together we can make a real difference for our global environment.

**In solidarity with the Great Global Cleanup Challenge launched to support Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, we would like to encourage you all to engage in individual or small family-based cleanups (designed in compliance with local COVID regulations).**



*Show us how you are keeping our beaches, wadis and neighborhoods clean by sharing your before and after photos with us using the hashtag #esoitstime and #GreatGlobalCleanup and tagging @esooman.*

#### How can you conduct a COVID secure cleanup?

Safety, especially during the time of a health pandemic, is a top priority for ESO. Whilst we would like to encourage you all to participate in a month of cleanup actions, to protect your health and slow the spread of COVID19, we have created the following guidance for carrying out cleanups during the pandemic.

#### Planning the cleanup:

1. Be responsible! If you are feeling sick or generally unwell, please stay at home.
2. Please consider a solo or a small family cleanup. Gatherings are not currently permitted.
3. Ensure that it is safe and permissible according to the latest health and safety directives. If it is permissible to be outside in the area you wish to visit, be sure to practice social distancing and robust sanitation practices before, during, and after your cleanup.
4. Select a location and cleanup route where it is less likely you will be around other people.
5. Always do your cleanup in daylight and when weather conditions are suitable.



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### During the cleanup:

6. Ensure that you wear a mask and some form of gloves for protection. Additionally, BBQ tongs, salad tongs, or other pickup device can help create further separation between you and the litter.
7. Never touch the litter directly or your face during your cleanup.
8. Bring hand sanitizer, especially if you are somewhere where you are unable to wash your hands.
9. Only pick-up litter that is safe to handle and can be easily disposed of or recycled.

### FOR YOUR SAFETY!

If you come across any improperly discarded PPE (mask or gloves) and/or hazardous PPE (needles and syringes) please **DO NOT PICK IT UP**, unless you feel comfortable handling such items, have a grabber or a stick. PPE should always be placed in a separate bag or container from recyclables collected due to possible contamination.

10. Please **DO** pick up all man-made objects, such as: cans, bottles, paper, any synthetic material, plastic bags and wraps/packaging, fishing lines, etc.
11. Please **DO NOT** pick up any natural items like logs, stones, seaweed, tar, driftwood, leaves, twigs, shrub clipping or shells as these can be home of animals and are important elements of our ecosystem.
12. Watch for and keep a safe distance from all wildlife! You are urged to not disturb animals and damage plants. Avoid stepping on dune plants and beach grasses, bushes, etc.
13. If you see any stranded, injured, dead, beached or entangled animals, please don't try to help them alone, call and ask for help from the Environment Authority or ESO immediately.

Environment Authority: +80071999 (Arabic)

Environment Society of Oman: +968 99855108 / 93211353 (Arabic and English)

14. Have fun and remember, safety first!

### After the cleanup

15. Dispose of any collected rubbish safely and securely to prevent further littering.
16. Make sure to wash your hands as soon as possible.
17. Disinfect all the reusable equipment that was used during your cleanup.
18. Share the success of your cleanup on social media. Tag us at @esooman and @EarthDayNetwork with the hashtag #esoitstime and #GreatGlobalCleanup.

Learn more: [Great Global Cleanup \(earthday.org\)](http://earthday.org)

DISCLAIMER: Participation in any cleanup during the pandemic is voluntary and at your own risk. Please, comply with all social distancing recommendations, wear a mask and use gloves.