



# Wyoming Adopt-A-Highway



**Keep Wyoming Beautiful!**

## Symbol of pride

The Adopt-A-Highway sign is a symbol of pride in Wyoming.

It indicates your group has made a commitment to keeping our state beautiful by helping keep its roadsides clean. WYDOT and the people of Wyoming thank you for your efforts.



Wyoming has some of the most scenic areas in the nation, drawing millions of visitors to our state. Not only does litter deface the view they see from our highways, it also can be potentially hazardous.

WYDOT greatly appreciates the assistance you provide in cleaning up this eyesore, and wants to make sure you're safe while working beside our highways.



## District Adopt-A-Highway coordinators

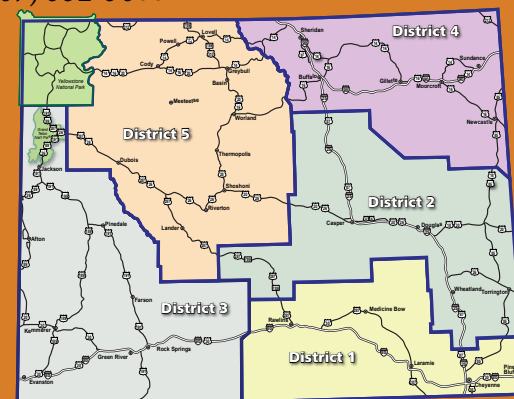
WYDOT's district Adopt-A-Highway coordinators can answer questions about the program and which highway sections are available for adoption in your area. For bags, vests and other supplies contact the nearest WYDOT maintenance shop.

### Important Numbers

<b>District 1</b> 3411 S. 3rd Street Laramie, WY 82070 (307) 745-2100	<b>District 4</b> 10 E. Brundage Lane Sheridan, WY 82801 (307) 674-2300
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<b>District 2</b> 900 Bryan Stock Trail Casper, WY 82601 (307) 473-3200	<b>District 5</b> P.O. Box 461 Basin, WY 82410 (307) 568-3400
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<b>District 3</b> P.O. Box 1260 Rock Springs, WY 82902-1260 (307) 352-3000	<b>Highway Patrol</b> 1-800-442-9090
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## Lend a hand

Cleaning up litter from Wyoming roadsides is costly and time consuming.

WYDOT spends more than \$2 million a year on it. Without Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, WYDOT would not have the money or the manpower to keep all 6,800 miles of its roadsides clean.

Wyoming residents in civic and other non-profit groups can join the Adopt-A-Highway program to help keep the view from Wyoming's roads beautiful.

WYDOT works with groups to designate highway sections to be adopted and safe parking areas for use during cleanups. It also provides orange safety vests and trash bags for use during cleanups.

The work of the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers is recognized with signs at each end of their adopted section. The signs bearing the groups' names promote their standing in the community, and serve as a reminder to motorists not to litter.



## Adopt a highway

To adopt a highway a group must:

- Sign an agreement to clean a two-mile section of highway for at least two years;
- Pick up litter on that section at least twice a year;
- Obtain required supplies and materials from WYDOT during business hours;
- Conduct a safety meeting prior to each cleanup;
- Obey all safety laws and regulations;
- Not possess or consume alcohol while working on its adopted section; and
- Not subcontract or assign its duties to any other group, organization or enterprise.

## Safety first!

All Adopt-A-Highway volunteers should make their own personal safety their top priority.

Following the instructions and precautions in this brochure should result in a safe and rewarding Adopt-A-Highway experience for you.

Thank you for all the time and energy you dedicate to keeping our roadsides clean, and remember – safety first.



## Be prepared

Traffic is the biggest safety concern for Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. The most important piece of safety equipment you have is the orange vest WYDOT provides for you. You are required by law to wear it at all times when working beside the road.

You'll also need a supply of trash bags. Group leaders can get them and any safety vests you need from the maintenance foreman at the WYDOT shop nearest your adopted highway section. Notify the maintenance foreman at least 48 hours before you plan to do a cleanup so they can provide any materials you need and schedule a pickup for the trash bags you fill during your cleanup.

Proper clothing is a top priority for a cleanup. Blue jeans or other heavy work pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt will protect you from the sun and scratches as you work.

Heavy leather gloves protect your hands. Work boots, hiking boots or heavy leather shoes will protect you from punctures and turned ankles.

Wear a hat to protect you from the sun. Sunglasses, sunscreen and insect repellent also are recommended.

A plentiful supply of drinking water is a necessity to stay hydrated while working. Take a water break at least every hour.

Group leaders should bring along a first aid kit and a charged cell phone. Everyone in the group should know the location of the nearest hospital and how to get there. Group members also should be up to date on their tetanus shots.



## Plan ahead

Pay attention to the weather forecast when scheduling your pickup. If the forecast calls for rain or fog, choose another date. Avoid working beside the road under any conditions that increase the chances of a traffic crash or make it difficult for drivers to see you.

If minors participate in a cleanup, adult supervision must be provided at a rate of at least one adult for every five participants under the age of 16.

It's best to carpool to the cleanup site to limit the number of vehicles parked beside the highway. Parking at a nearby parking lot and having a designated driver drop you off at your adopted section and pick you up later is a good idea.

If you must park at the cleanup site, make sure your vehicles are as far off the road as possible and turn on your warning flashers. Always park on the side of the road the volunteers are working on.

## See and be seen

As you do your cleanup, face oncoming traffic so you can see what's coming. Don't walk for long periods of time with your head down. Constantly scan for oncoming vehicles and don't work too close to the road. It's a good idea to have one

member of the group serve as a lookout to watch traffic and the other group members as they clean.

Always stay with your group. You're more visible to passing motorists in a group than by yourself.

Stay clear of construction



areas, and don't enter pipes or culverts. Don't try to pick up litter on bridges, in the median or anywhere you have to cross the highway to reach. Never dart into a traffic lane to retrieve litter.

Don't engage in horseplay. It creates a distraction for you, the other members of your group and passing drivers. Don't wear headphones or earbuds. They can distract you from traffic and make it more difficult to hear warnings from other group members.

## Bag it

A simple way to keep your bag open while you work is to use a stick about two feet long and a couple of inches wide. Place the stick on the outside of your bag a few inches from the top edge. Fold or roll the bag over the stick toward the outside. Holding the bag by the stick will then keep the bag open as you clean.

Don't overfill your trash bags. Carrying a heavy bag will tire you out, and the bags will be more difficult for WYDOT maintenance crews to remove after your cleanup. If you do get tired, take a break.

When a bag is about half full, securely tie the top and place the bag about five feet from the edge of the road shoulder for WYDOT maintenance crews to remove.

Bag small items of paper, cardboard, plastic, Styrofoam®, wood, rubber, glass, metal and small, empty containers if they don't have sharp edges.

If you find a large object too big to bag, put it next to a group of filled bags. If an object is too heavy to move, mark it by placing a filled bag next to it.



## Stay Alert

Watch for dangerous objects, such as broken glass, sharp metal objects and exposed nails. Handle them carefully, and don't put them in your bag because they can poke through and cause injuries. Place the items next to your filled bags when you position them for pickup.

Abandoned containers with unknown contents could be dangerous. Don't touch them. Content labels on the containers may not be accurate.

If you find a container with an unknown substance in it, make a note of its location relative to the nearest milepost and report the location to the WYDOT maintenance shop where your group gets trash bags and vests. Mark the location with one of your filled trash bags.

Never touch medical waste such as needles, syringes or bandages. Never touch objects with radioactive symbols on them or anything that resembles an explosive device or weapon.

Report the location of these items to the Highway Patrol at 1-800-442-9090.

More and more Adopt-A-Highway volunteers are finding containers of urine beside the road. Do not touch containers you suspect contain

urine or any other biological waste. Leave the containers where you find them and mark the locations with a filled trash bag.

Other objects you should avoid are gasoline cans, used oil, antifreeze containers, car batteries and fluorescent light tubes. Mark their location with a filled trash bag and report the location to your WYDOT contact.

Watch for wildlife, such as snakes, skunks and stinging insects.

You may find animal carcasses along the road. Never touch them. If they are small, leave them for scavengers. If they are large, report the location to your nearest WYDOT maintenance shop.

## Avoid Meth Waste

Waste from illegal methamphetamine labs is extremely dangerous and should be avoided.

Among the signs of meth waste are dead grass or dying vegetation and the odor of cat urine, rotten eggs, ammonia or acetone. If you detect any of those odors, leave the area immediately.

Sometimes meth waste is concealed in backpacks or plastic coolers. Be aware and be cautious.

If you encounter any of these items, do not touch them:

- Trash bags or kitty litter bags sealed with duct tape, possibly with a hose or rubber tubing protruding. Plastic bottles rigged this way also can be found. They are filters that contain deadly phosphine gas.



- Propane cylinders. The fittings may have turned blue or green, and they can explode;
- Pill residue, a pinkish putty-like substance;
- Respiratory masks and rubber gloves;
- Rubber hoses and clamps;
- Sheets and pillowcases stained pink or red;
- Corning or Pyrex glass containers with rubber hoses attached;
- Laboratory flasks;
- Solvents of any kind;
- Champagne bottles;
- Quantities of stained coffee filters;
- Hot plates or camping stoves;
- Empty blister packs and pill bottles of pseudoephedrine products;
- Lithium batteries torn apart;
- Separated liquids in jars or bottles;
- Small butane torches;
- Matchbooks with washed off striker strips;

- Large quantities of Epson salts or iodine crystals; or
- Flammables, including charcoal lighter fluid, kerosene, mineral spirits, denatured alcohol and lacquer thinner.

If you find materials that could be meth waste, don't touch anything and stay away. Report the location of the waste immediately to the Highway Patrol at 1-800-442-9090.

