



# Is it Garbage?

**1** An item is not garbage if a **person takes action consistent with ownership**, such as grabbing or holding the item, moving or hiding the item, stating the item is being held or watched for another, or requests to keep the item.

**2** **Biohazardous** items presents a risk of disease, injury, infection, or illness to those who come into contact with the item (or the public). Examples:

- Used hypodermic needles
- Used drug paraphernalia
- Items soiled with bodily fluids or waste, such as blood and feces
- Items contaminated with mold or bacteria
- Items infested with insects or other vermin
- Leaking or damaged propane tanks, fuel tanks, combustion engines, or other items containing toxic or flammable substances
- Corroded or leaking batteries
- Items unsafe to segregate from one or more of the above

**3** **Valuable Property** means any item with apparent substantial monetary value, such as items with precious metals or gems, working electronic devices, functioning machinery, functioning tools, functioning bicycles, fine art, or currency in any amount. Valuable Property also includes IDs, legal and healthcare-related documents, purses, wallets, backpacks, file folders, functioning medical equipment, and medications.

**4** An item may be considered garbage if the **owner instructs or asks** that the item be thrown away. To establish a person is the owner of an item, ask the person. If a person identifies as the owner and grants permission for the item to be thrown away, document the date, time and location of the conversation, the ID of the owner, and note the owner granted permission to dispose of the item.

**5** Items generally considered **waste or refuse** include wrappers and packaging, plant litter and debris, used paper and personal hygiene products, construction debris, and used consumable medical and other supplies.

**6** When evaluating an **item's condition**, consider whether the item is soiled, damaged, broken, missing components, or otherwise non-functional.

**7** Consider whether the item(s) are neatly **organized or stored** within a box, bag, bucket, tent, shopping or handcart, or other container (excluding trash or recycling receptacles) or within a tent or lean-to.

**8** **Public Facility** means a facility open to general public, such as a retail store, government facility, laundromat or restaurant, as well as other facilities that offer free meals or other charitable services, housing assistance, or psychological or addiction support services. When evaluating whether a camp is nearby, consider whether tents, lean-tos, bedding, cooking supplies, or other indications of human occupation are present.

# Checklist

Use this checklist to identify clean area designation.

## BIOHAZARDOUS (ITEM PRESENTS A RISK OF DISEASE, INJURY, INFECTION, OR ILLNESS)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypodermic needles/used drug paraphernalia  | <input type="checkbox"/> Items infested with insects or vermin      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Items soiled with bodily fluids/human waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaking or damaged combustible/toxic items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Items contaminated with mold or bacteria    | <input type="checkbox"/> Items unsafe to segregate from other items |

## WASTE OR REFUSE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wrappers, packaging | <input type="checkbox"/> Debris, used paper or personal hygiene products          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant litter        | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction debris and used consumable medical supplies |

## NOT DEBRIS/BIO

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Items of value                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Precious metals or gems            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person claiming that it is property they want | <input type="checkbox"/> Functioning machinery              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fine art                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None soiled clothing                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsoiled and functioning furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ID's/Birth Cert or other vital records        | <input type="checkbox"/> Purses/wallets                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tools   | <input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks and suitcases            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycles                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> File folders                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic devices                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other items of value _____         |

## NOTES

Date

Location/property  
type

Case #

Outcome