



**Highway Maintenance Manual**  
**Chapter 07 Roadside Management**  
**Section 01 General**  
**Subject 20 Litter Pickup by Counties**

**Bureau of Highway Maintenance**  
**December 2018**

## **1.0 Authority**

[s. 287.81, Wis. Stats.](#) prohibits the deposit of litter on or along highways of the state.

Wisconsin Administrative Code [Adm 2.06](#) includes handbills, literature, and promotional materials or devices in the definition of litter.

Wisconsin Administrative Code [Adm 502.06\(2\)\(e\)](#) addresses collection and transportation of litter from the collection site to the disposal site.

## **2.0 General**

Litter discarded on or along a highway right of way visible from the roadway should be picked up and properly disposed of in sanitary landfill sites or recycled. Litter is defined as any object, visible from the roadway at posted speeds that should not be there, including illegal signs and dead animals. Routine litter pick-up should be conducted at least twice per year, in the spring and the fall, unless identified differently in the current fiscal year work priorities memo. The memo can be found in Interim Policy and Procedures [HMM 01-01-05](#). Litter that may disrupt or be scattered by mowing should be picked up before mowing begins.

Objects in the traveled way and shoulder large enough to pose a threat to safe traffic flow is hazardous debris. Debris hazardous to traffic or negatively impacting the use of the highway should be removed promptly. The county should plan for the proper disposal of hazardous debris.

All litter pickup costs shall be charged to Activity Code 042 Litter Pickup on the Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) monthly invoice.

## **3.0 Animal Remains**

The remains of animals found on roadsides or the roadway should be removed and disposed of as outlined in [HMM 07-15-01, Carcass Removal](#).

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation contracts for car-killed deer removal on state highways, which include Interstates, U.S. highways, and state trunk highways. Counties are responsible for removing deer carcasses on county highways. Municipalities are responsible for removing deer carcasses on their local roads. See [HMM 07-15-01, Carcass Removal](#) for more details.

## **4.0 Adopt-A-Highway**

The department administers an Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program which allows civic and other groups the opportunity to collect litter along assigned sections of highway as a public service. See [HMM 07-01-25, Adopt-A-Highway](#). County patrol persons should not pick up normal litter on adopted sections of highway except in those areas where the AAH group is not allowed, e.g. medians, overpasses and other places that would be dangerous for volunteers. Trash bags left and reported by AAH groups and hazardous debris should be picked up by the county.

## **5.0 Hazardous Waste**

Hazardous waste is not to be moved. Hazardous waste differs from hazardous debris. Hazardous waste is a special class of solid waste that must be managed properly to protect human health and the environment. AAH groups and counties are not to move or transport hazardous waste. For more information on hazardous waste see the WDNR website on [proper management of hazardous waste in Wisconsin](#) and the WisDOT Adopt-A-Highway website on [safety education](#).