



## Purpose of this procedure

Sanitary items are often found during beach litter surveys. The purpose of this document is to outline the risks associated with handling these items and the correct procedure for containing them to minimise these risks.

See examples of commonly found sanitary items below.

## What is a sanitary item?

Sanitary items are any items that may have come into contact with or contain human waste (urine, faeces) or other bodily fluids (blood, saliva, mucus, etc.). These carry a hygiene and disease transmission risk, so it is very important that litter data collectors handle these items safely to minimise the risk to Sustainable Coastlines volunteers and staff.

### **Biohazards**

Only count item, do not weigh. Only trained leaders to touch.

### **Nappy wipes**



### **Nappy**



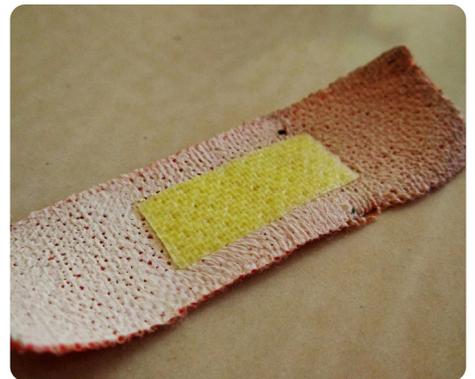
### **Toilet paper / tissues**



### **Face masks**



### **Plasters / bandages / sports tape**



### **Condom**



### **Tampon / pads**



### **Tampon applicator**





## Procedure for handling sanitary items

- 1 Identify that the item in question is a sanitary item. Refer to photo examples on reverse.
- 2 Notify your lead litter data collector.
- 3 Wearing gloves, use a biodegradable dog-poo bag to scoop up the item. Tie off the bag. Avoid handling the sanitary item/s with your gloved hand directly by inverting the dog-poo bag to provide an additional barrier between you and the item.
- 4 If possible, count the items as you contain them in the bag and note this number on the outside of the bag using the vivid marker provided.
- 5 Carefully place the sealed bag in a rubbish sack.
- 6 Record the total number of sanitary items found during your survey when entering your litter audit data into the database.
- 7 Remember to always wear your reusable gloves when handling litter and use hand sanitiser or wash your hands thoroughly once you've finished your litter survey and audit and before you eat!



### Lead litter data collectors

Remember to include the above information in your health and safety briefing prior to starting your litter survey. Ensure you have the dog-poo bags with you so that any sanitary items can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

### Sanitising gloves after each use

Please remember to wash and dry the reusable gloves provided prior to returning the kit to its storage location. A warm machine wash with laundry detergent and a dry on the line or dryer is sufficient. Make sure the gloves are unpaired and not inside-out before you wash them. Pair them again once they are clean and dry.