

# **Tar Ball Self-organised Clean-ups by Volunteers @ East Coast Park Beach**

## **Volunteer Guide**



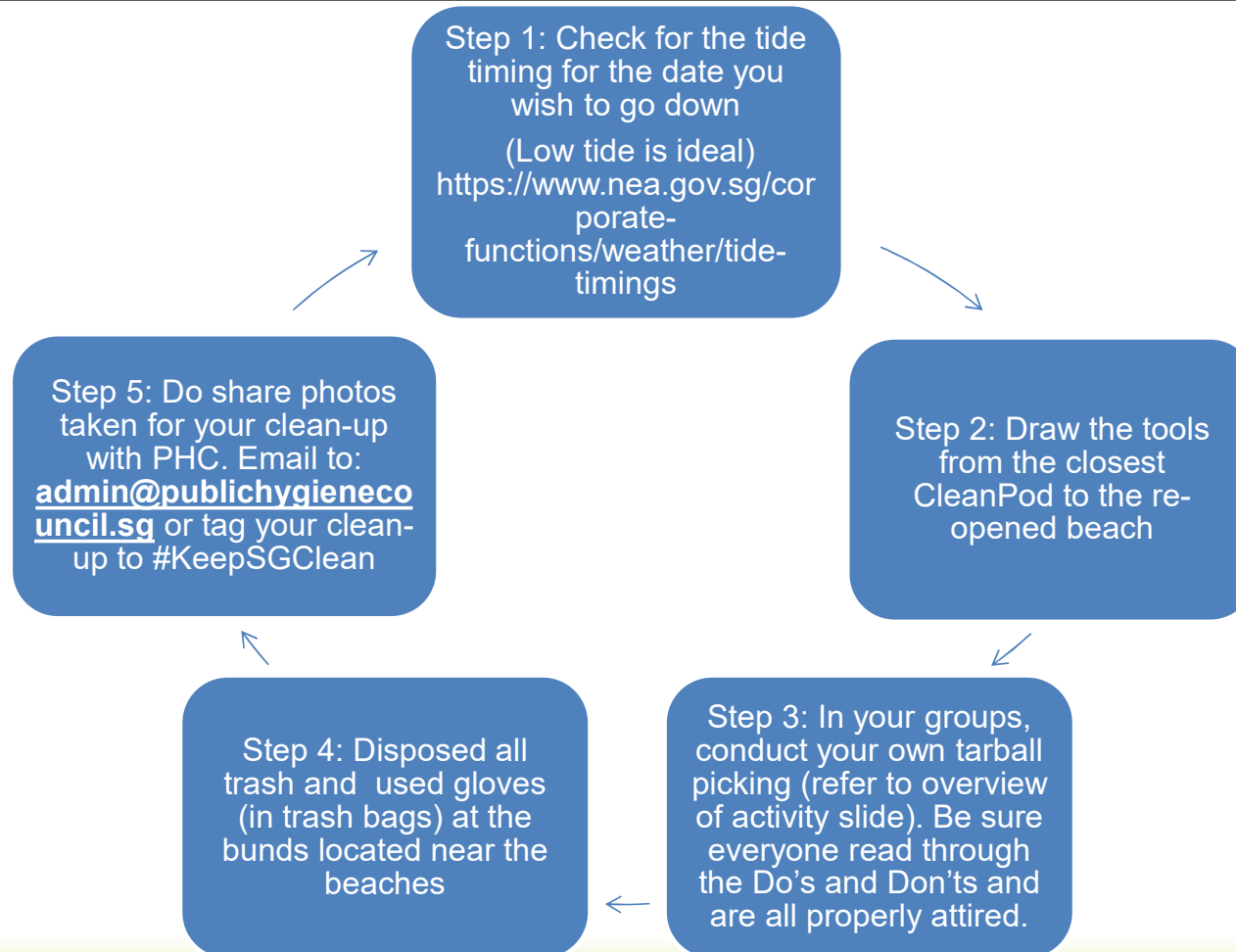
## Summary

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## Step by Step Guide

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## Tools in CleanPod

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Tools in CleanPod for participants' use during clean-up activity  
(CleanPod will be left unlocked for easy access):

- Metal Tongs
- Bamboo Rakes
- \*Trash Bags
- ***Please bring your own disposable Gloves***



Images of CleanPods located at East Coast Park

*\*As tar balls collected will need to be disposed of properly, pails are not advisable for use*

# Suggested Methodology for Clearing of Tar Balls and Marine Litter

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## Step 1

Sweep tar balls/marine litter on the surface of the sand using gentle strokes, with the rake provided. Sweep in both directions to form a pile in the middle.

Tongs can be used to pick up the tar balls/marine litter.



## Step 2

Open the trash bag against the direction of the wind (i.e. facing the sea) and sweep the pile into the trash bag.



## Step 3

Tie up the trash bag once it is approximately 1/2 filled. Do not fill up the bag completely, to prevent tearing of the trash bag due to weight. Tie up the trash bag with double knots.



## Step 4

Deposit the tied bags at the bunds along the beach



## Proposed Programme Outline

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Activity	Duration
Safety Briefing (if you have a big group)	15 mins
Beach Clean-up Activity	30 mins
Break	15 mins
Return of Equipment + Debrief (where applicable)	10 mins

**Note: Feel free to take additional breaks, as necessary. Your health and well-being are top priority.**



## Dos and Don'ts on the Beach

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- **Always wear protective gloves** to avoid direct contact with litter or tar balls, and also to protect your hands from potential contamination and injury.
- **Do not remove your covered shoes** at any time during the clean-up, to protect your feet, for the same reasons.
- Try to **maintain a distance of around 2-3 metres from the water**, to keep your shoes dry and prevent slipping on wet sand.
- **Always work in pairs or small groups for safety and mutual support.** This ensures that someone is always nearby in case assistance is needed. Please let your partner(s) know if you are going to the toilet.
- **Take regular breaks and stay hydrated**, especially in hot weather. Drink water frequently and seek shade if you need to rest, to avoid heat exhaustion.
- **Do not attempt to pick up** any sharp objects, and unusual/bulky items.
- **Be alert to any wildlife you encounter at the beach.** Look out for areas that might be nesting sites for animals, such as birds and turtles. These are often marked by local conservation groups. Please do not disturb any nests or wildlife you come across, as this may be detrimental to them.

## Things to Note for Volunteers

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### Attire

- Covered shoes [Compulsory]\*
- Comfortable top (volunteers may wish to consider wearing long sleeves to protect their arms from sun or accidental contact with oil)
- Long pants [Recommended]
- Hat/Cap/Sunglasses for sun protection [Recommended]

### Things to bring

- Filled water bottle for hydration
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Umbrella

***\*For safety purposes, it would be best to advise volunteers who turn up without proper covered footwear to not participate in the activity.***





# Wet Weather Plan

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Weather condition	Advisory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Light rain</li><li>• Passing showers</li><li>• Rain</li><li>• Showers</li><li>• Heavy showers</li><li>• Thundery showers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If it occurs <b>before start of the activity</b>, volunteers should delay or cancel the activity</li><li>• If it occurs <b>during the activity</b>, everyone should <u>cease activity and gather at the nearest shelter</u>.</li></ul> <p><b>Stay alert to changes in the weather. If you notice dark clouds or hear thunder, seek shelter immediately.</b></p>

## Information on Tar Balls

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### What are Tar Balls?

- Tar balls are small, dark-coloured pieces of coagulated oil from the beach.
- They are formed after oil is released into the marine environment.
- Over time, these viscous oils mix with debris/sediments present in the water, and form tar balls, which then get washed up on shore.
- Tar balls are typically sticky to the touch and can range widely in size.
- They usually consist of a solid crust with a softer interior.



# Information on Tar Balls

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## Handling Tar Balls

- For most people, occasional brief contact with small amounts of tar balls, while not recommended, should not be harmful
- For individuals with more sensitive skin, it is recommended that direct contact be avoided as it may result in an allergic reaction.
- If contact occurs, individuals are advised to wash the affected area with water and soap. To remove persistent oil, individuals may apply grease removing agents such as baby oil and mineral oil that are gentle to skin, before rinsing with fresh water.
- Should any skin irritation persist, individuals are advised to consult a doctor.



# Our Environment

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