

What's With the Gloves?

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What's with the latest phenomenon of tossing used, latex-dipped gloves onto the street? It is mostly done by outdoor contractors, especially landscapers and gutter cleaners. Sometimes, clean-up volunteers find gloves in natural areas next to where the contractors encroached and unlawfully dumped refuse onto parkland. These gloves contribute to the plastic pollution problems in the environment when polyester is in the weave, synthetic rubber is used, or chemicals added to natural latex prevent biodegradation. Washed and lodged down storm drains, plastic waste buildup causes clogs—and from personal experience, nobody wants a blocked storm drain backing up and carrying water and junk across their yard! Furthermore, if these contractors have trouble with the simple task of proper trash disposal (that is, place it in a garbage can), where else are they cutting corners or doing things that they should not?

You can help! When using contractors, kindly make clear that they are to properly and legally dispose of any trash that they generate. When finding debris after their work or even catching them in the act, politely talk to them or their supervisor about it. Afraid that calling them out will be embarrassing or discourteous? Well, littering and dumping is far ruder! Turn it into a friendly, educational opportunity.

Thank you to the conscientious contractors who thoroughly tidy up after their work. A big “thanks” goes to those neighbors who pick up the gloves... in addition to dropped nails and screws, nylon line from edgetrimmers, cigarette butts, beverage containers, food packaging, masks, ear plugs, and other waste on the streets!

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