



Hygiene Drive Toolkit: Help Us Bridge the Hygiene Gap!

The Why: Hygiene for All

In our community, many individuals and families struggle to afford basic hygiene products. This hygiene poverty can have a significant impact on their health, well-being and self-esteem. Bridge to Basics is dedicated to bridging this gap by providing essential hygiene products to those in need.

Your Role: Be a Hygiene Champion!

We invite you to host a Hygiene Drive and help us ensure everyone in our community has access to the essentials for a healthy life.

The How: Building a Successful Drive

1. **Gather Your Crew:** Recruit friends, family, colleagues, or your organization to participate.
2. **Set a Duration:** Choose a timeframe for your drive (i.e., one week, a month).
3. **Pick a Location:** Secure a convenient drop-off point like your workplace, school or a community center. Or you can organize a literal drive if you have the people power and vehicles to collect at multiple locations.
4. **Spread the Word:** Use flyers, posters, social media, and email to promote your drive.
5. **Collect Donations:** Encourage donations of new, unopened hygiene products (see list below).*
 - a. Note: Contact us to coordinate pick up/drop off of items.
6. **Celebrate Success:** Thank everyone who participated and share the impact of your drive! We will do the same by sharing your generosity with our supporters and nonprofit partners through newsletters and social media.

Here are a few suggestions to create additional excitement:

- **Customize your collection:** Are you going to request all hygiene items? Focus on a certain category (oral hygiene, hair & scalp, body, etc.) Will you have special requests (i.e. please focus on certain ethnic products and brands, vegan, or make accommodations for those with sensitive skin, i.e. no parabens, sulfates or scents)
- **Teams vs. Individuals:** Are you going to encourage people to form teams (or will you assign them)...or will everyone participate as individuals. The decision is entirely up to what works best for your group. However, the benefit of having teams is that you can divide up the needs and have teams focus on specific items and it creates a healthy competition.
- **Set a goal:** How will you define success for your drive? The goal is a fun way to keep your team motivated and engaged. Is it by number of items, # of carloads, # of participants. You decide what this goal looks like. There is not a set goal for a hygiene drive by Bridge to Basics. We are grateful for the support and willingness to lean in and meet the needs of our neighbors.

Needed Products*:

- Soap/body wash
- Shampoo/conditioner/hair milks and oils
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Lotions (body, sunscreen, shaving)
- Razors
- Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons)
- Diapers & Incontinence Items (infant to adult)
- Laundry detergent (prefer laundry sheets)
- Toilet paper

**Noting all products should be full-size, new, unopened, and not expired.*

Best Practices:

- **Make it Easy to Donate:** Clearly communicate accepted items and collection times.
- **Identify a team lead:** This person needs to be the ambassador, motivator and gratitude maestro. Someone needs to be keeping tabs, sharing inspiration and inventorying contributions (and be a point person for Bridge to Basics).
- **Highlight coupons/store specials:** Share known discounts with your members on hygiene products for your drive.
- **Storage:** If it's an ongoing collection and you are requesting drop offs, identify a space to host the inventory safely. If you are asking for a one day drop off or pick up, do you have the vehicles and people power to collect and store products (or drop off at Bridge to Basics warehouse)?
- **Have Fun!** Organize a theme day or a friendly competition to boost participation.

Donation Pick Up or Drop Off

Once your drive is complete, please contact us to set up a pick up or drop off time. We have volunteers in the east and west metro and a warehouse at 801 Transfer Road, St. Paul 55114.

Thank You for Joining the Movement!

By running a Hygiene Drive, you're making a real difference in the lives of others. Together, we can ensure everyone in our community has access to basic hygiene products and can live a healthy life with dignity.

Contact Us:

For questions or to learn more, please contact us at hello@bridgetobasics.org

Spread the Word!

Pull back the curtain on hygiene insecurity. Please share this toolkit with your network and encourage them to host their own Hygiene Drive!

Hygiene Drive Q & A

Q: What is a hygiene drive?

A hygiene drive is an organized collection of personal care hygiene products, like body wash, for people who can't afford them. We are asking people to contribute full size toiletries and other daily essentials to be distributed to neighbors in need by nonprofits in our community.

Q: Can I donate gently used items?

We appreciate your generosity, but to ensure hygiene and safety, we only accept new, unopened products.

Q: What are the items needed?

Bridge to Basics is requesting full-size personal hygiene products. The requested items are: Body Wash, Deodorant, Diapers (infant to adult), Conditioner, Shampoo, Ethnic Hair Products, Laundry Detergent (sheets preferred), Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Bars of Soap, Menstrual Care Items, Lotions, Razors, and Toilet Paper.

Q: Are there any special requests?

Bridge to Basics provides these items to food shelves, schools and more. Because hygiene care is personal, please consider contributing a variety of products including those that are ethnically and culturally appropriate and also acceptable to those with health sensitivities (i.e. fragrance, parabens and sulfate free). The goal is to allow neighbors in need to get the right products to care for themselves.

Q: Who gets all of the hygiene products?

Bridge to Basics, a nonprofit hygiene bank, is the recipient of the donated items. Like a food bank, Bridge to Basics distributes these daily essentials to their partner network who in turn gives the products to those individuals and families they support. This keeps relationships intact and improves access to these items for those who need them.

If you'd like to learn more about Bridge to Basics, visit bridgetobasics.org

Q: Can I donate money instead of products?

Absolutely! Monetary donations allow us to purchase specific hygiene products in high demand. Visit our website bridgetobasics.org to donate online.

Q: How can I learn more about hygiene poverty?

Visit our website [[what is hygiene insecurity page](#)] for resources and statistics on hygiene poverty.