

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Construction

Did you know? More about the four-truck caravan that cleans our roads at night.

Scrupulous Cleaning Requires Teamwork

We interrupted a cleaning crew for an on-the-spot report. These professionals quickly assess road conditions and use teamwork to doggedly go after any trash. This is how our roads are kept so clean.

1 Lead Vehicle



Quickly assesses and decides how to deal with any trash.

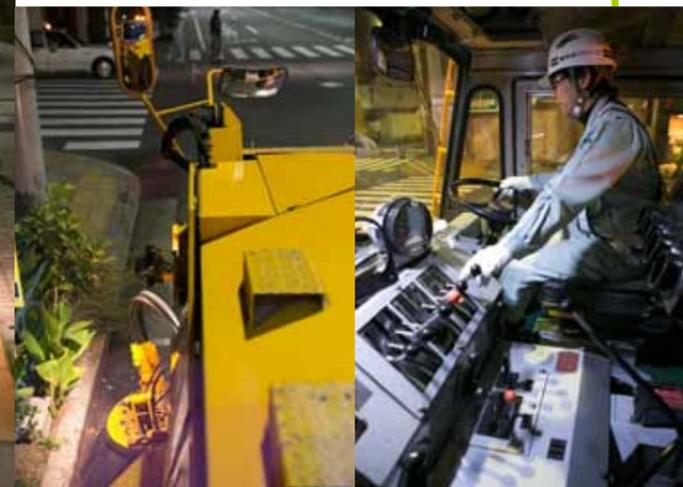
The three workers on this truck go out about an hour ahead of the others to check the route. They get off to sweep up any refuse they find on sidewalks and other areas the sweeper truck can't reach. They also remove any large trash that would disrupt the work of the trucks that follow.

3 Sweeper



The star of the show takes in all the trash.

The sweeper, designed on three wheels for a tighter turning radius, uses rotating brushes to pull in trash and fallen leaves that have accumulated along the side of the road, storing them in the hopper on the front. Because the truck sits so high, the operator uses six mirrors on all four sides to check the position of the brushes.



2 Sprinkler Truck



Sprays water to keep down any dust raised by the sweeper.

Before the sweeper that follows goes to work with its brushes, this truck sprays the edges of the road with water, helping to hold down the dust. The tank holds 6,500 liters. They'll carry less water in winter to keep the water in the tank from freezing.



The road-cleaning team lines up for work. From right, the lead vehicle, sprinkler truck, sweeper, and dump truck.

4 Dump Truck



Provides cover for the sweeper and carries large volumes of trash.

Once the sweeper's hopper is full, the dump truck will come around the front to collect the trash. Since the sweeper moves along at just 6km an hour, the dump truck also guards against possible collisions with regular vehicles attempting to pass.