

Images from: NOAA.gov



What is Marine Debris

- Marine Debris is any form of trash or substance produced by humans that ends up in coastal or marine environments.
- According to the National Academy of Sciences, it is any solid material that is discarded at sea or reaches the ocean through domestic or industrial transports.

Where does it come from?

- Marine Debris comes from land, usually ends up in the ocean through human activity.
- Some examples of the most common marine debris found in the oceans during clean ups are:
 1. Fast food packaging
 2. Beverage containers
 3. Disposable lighters
 4. Plastic Beach Toys
 5. cars parts (including tires)
 6. Oil Barrels
 7. Fishing Gear, Nets, Poles

How does it harm marine & coastal life?

- In many instances, marine animals confuse the marine debris as a food source, in particular the plastics. This leads to intoxication and/or choking and often leads to death.
- Animals also get tangled in the marine debris like old fishing gear.
- Ecosystems that have to try and thrive in the oceans with the marine debris invading their space are often not healthy.

Impacts to Humans

- Marine Debris impacts all coastal ecosystems thus resulting in some form of harm to humans.
- If animals consume marine debris, humans who consume seafood may notice consequences in their overall health.
- Divers and scientists can also get tangled when performing their duties and this can result in an accidents or death.
- Contamination of the oceans with marine debris can result in health concerns to seafood consumers.

Preventing Marine Debris

- Marine Debris Removal is highly costly, that is why we recommend to be cautious of littering near coastal or marine environments.
- Please be careful with children's' plastic beach toys, snack or food wrappers.
- It only takes one minute to throw away something and save a life!

What you can do?

- Recycle, Reduce, Reuse
- Communities can arrange beach, coastal, or marsh cleanups.
- Please be careful with children's plastic beach toys, snack or food wrappers. They become hazardous to marine life once they make their way to the ocean.
- It only takes one minute to throw away something and save a life!

STOP dumping or throwing trash to our marine or coastal environments...Please dispose of these items properly in appropriate containers .

Join CWC & LUMCCON in preventing further marine debris.



References:

www.noaa.gov

www.epa.gov

<http://www.nasonline.org/>