

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](http://www.noaa.gov)

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

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