



Marine Debris Is Deadly



Litter in the Street = Marine Debris

Litter discarded on the street is swept into sewers that may empty into bays and other waterbodies and can ultimately be carried to the ocean. Even when disposed of in garbage cans, trash sometimes winds up in our waterways. Light weight items often spill from, or are blown from, improperly covered trash cans, and from garbage trucks and landfills and are carried by the wind to the nearest water body.

Plastic Causes a lot of Damage

Plastic contains toxins and can take hundreds of years to disappear from the environment. It breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces that are eaten by marine life and birds whose insides can be punctured by sharp pieces. Sometimes animals stomachs become so filled with plastic that they can starve to death.

Discarded Cigarette Butts may Kill Wildlife!



Cigarette filters are not biodegradable and are made from plastic. Chemicals from cigarette butts can leach into the surrounding land and water. These chemicals do not belong in the marine environment and may cause considerable harm. Laboratory tests have determined that cigarette butts can be toxic to marine life.

Spread the word that cigarette butts should not be tossed on the ground or in sewers.

Want to help? See below and the reverse side for more info.

If your school or organization is interested in hosting a free marine debris prevention presentation or volunteering for a beach cleanup, please contact Lisa (lisa@littoralsociety.org).

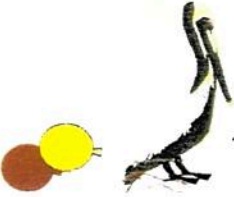


HOW YOU CAN HELP TO REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS

Always
Dispose of Trash in a
Securely Covered
Container.



Recycle
Used Plastic, Glass,
Metal and Paper
Appropriately



Items like plastic bags, strapping bands, discarded fishing line and balloons have harmed many species of marine animals and birds through ingestion and entanglement. More than 100,000 turtles and marine mammals are maimed and killed each year.



Resist using single use items!

Don't use disposable plates and utensils at home and bring reusable utensils, cups and containers to restaurants.

NO

YES



New Yorker's use 5.2 billion carryout bags per year and most are not recycled. NYC spends about 10 million dollars a year to transport 100,000 lbs. of plastic bags to landfills. Bringing your own bag can help the environment and save NYC money.



The EPA regulates tap water more strictly than the FDA regulates bottled water. Almost 50% of bottled water is really filtered tap water. Once a plastic bottle is opened, bacteria can grow quickly unless the bottle is refrigerated. Utilizing reusable aluminum or stainless steel bottles or glass bottles with silicone sleeves is healthier for you and the environment.



Don't release balloons!



Marine animals and birds mistake balloons for food and Become entangled in the strings and ribbons. Don't let go of balloons! Instead, celebrate by flying a kite, blowing bubbles or planting native flowers!

With generous support from the NOAA Restoration Center and the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the Littoral Society is currently spearheading a Marine Debris Removal and Data-driven Prevention Pilot Project at various sites in New York including the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. This project seeks to reduce the amount of marine debris through both removal and source reduction efforts.

For more than 25 years, with the help of its partners and volunteers, the Littoral Society has removed hundreds of thousands of pounds of large and small debris from the shorelines of New York.



The American Littoral Society is engaged in numerous habitat restoration projects in New York and New Jersey including marsh, oyster reef, and dune restoration.

Please visit www.littoralsociety.org for information on volunteer opportunities, shoreline cleanups, restoration projects, educational programs, whale watching and birding trips and other events.