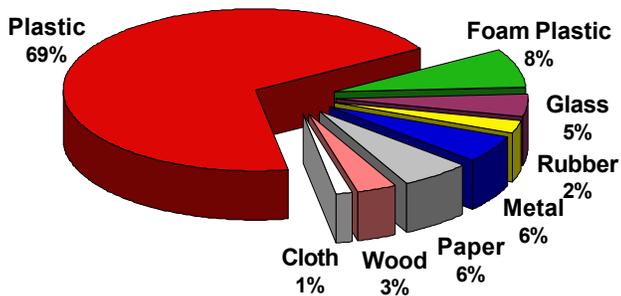


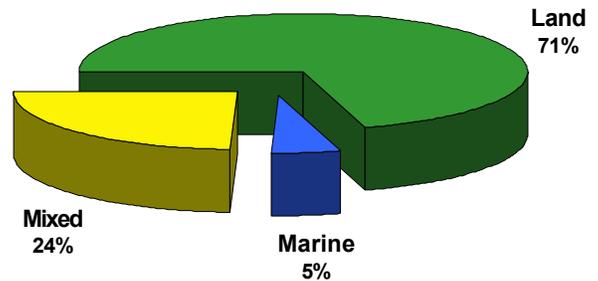
New Jersey's Marine Debris - 2003

Percent Breakdown by Material



The most prevalent type of debris found on New Jersey's beaches and in our waterways is plastic. The major reasons that plastic ranks so high are: **1)** disposable plastic materials are found in nearly all consumer products, **2)** the longevity of plastic (taking many decades to several hundred years to break down), and **3)** littering or failure to recycle. Due to the strength of the material and its ability to last a long time, plastic items cause the most needless deaths of marine animals (see "2003 Entanglements", reverse side of insert).

Percent Breakdown by Source



Does marine debris come from the ocean or from land? The majority of the items found on New Jersey beaches come from a source on land: being left on the beach, blown to the beach, or brought to the shore via storm drains. Three simple changes in lifestyles can help reduce litter in the marine environment: **1)** do not litter, **2)** dispose of trash in a proper method so that it cannot be reintroduced into the environment, and **3)** the three "R's": **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**

New Jersey's Dirty Dozen

2003	Item	10 Year Ranking	10 Year Average Ranking
(1)	29,907 Cigarette Filters	(1)	(1)
(2)	23,256 Plastic Caps & Lids	(4)	(4)
(3)	19,472 Plastic Pieces	(3)	(3)
(4)	19,308 Plastic Food Bags	(2)	(3)
(5)	17,080 Plastic Straws	(5)	(5)
(6)	10,143 Plastic Beverage Bottles	(8)	(8)
(7)	9,748 Foam Plastic Pieces	(6)	(5)
(8)	6,199 Pieces of Lumber	(12)	(12)
(9)	6,097 Paper Pieces	(7)	(8)
(10)	5,915 Metal Beverage Cans	(11)	(12)
(11)	5,520 Glass Beverage Bottles	(13)	(12)
(12)	4,942 Plastic Forks, Knives, & Spoons*	(--)	(--)
157,650 Total		64.9% of Total Cleanup	

*New category in 2003

The "Dirty Dozen" are the top **12** items most frequently collected and recorded during the Beach Sweeps in New Jersey. These **12** items accounted for **65** percent of the debris collected at the 2003 beach cleanups. In 2003, new datacards were used at the Sweeps that listed more items than previously and deleted some from the old card. Even with these new datacards, the items remained fairly consistent in their ranking with slight variations over the ten years.

Plastic forks, knives, & spoons was a new listing on the datacard in 2003. This item was formerly plastic cups & utensils, which has a ten year ranking of **10** and average of **11**. The new separate listing of plastic cups ranked **17** in 2003. Two new items, plastic shopping bags (ranked **13**) and plastic cap rings (ranked **15**), may be future candidates for the dirty dozen.

Cigarette filters, the #1 item found on beaches, are not only unsightly, they can harm marine life.

As in years past, cigarette filters were the **number one** item found on the beaches in 2003. Remember, the number of cigarette filters collected during the beach cleanups is a small fraction of what may be in the environment. Cigarette filters are not only unsightly, they can harm marine life. The filter traps carcinogenic (cancer-causing) chemicals which are introduced into the marine environment when the cigarette is not disposed of properly. Cigarette filters have also been found in the stomachs of fish, whales, and birds, blocking and affecting their digestion.