

Clean Ocean Action's ~ 10 Tips for Shore Visitors ~



- 1. Leave only footprints in the sand.** Use trashcans or take trash home (carry in, carry out). Use your beach pail at the end of the day to collect litter. Scoop the Poop! Bring a bag to clean up after your pet. After enjoying the beach, organize family and friends for a cleanup, or join volunteers at COA's Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps.
- 2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** Buy only re-usable or recyclable products. Recycling reduces solid waste and saves resources. If your beach does not have recycling bins, take your items home to recycle.
- 3. Litter is lethal to marine life.** Avoid bringing disposable plastics to the beach. Plastics do not biodegrade and can kill fish, birds, whales, seals, turtles, and other animals through entanglement and ingestion. If you see an animal entangled, injured, or in danger see Tip # 9.
- 4. The beach is not an ashtray.** Never leave cigarette filters in the sand. They do not biodegrade and are highly toxic to marine animals that mistake them for food.
- 5. Hold the line, never let it go.** Keep all fishing line for recycling and send to: Pure Fishing America, 1900 18th St, Spirit Lake, IA 51360-1099. If not possible, cut line into small pieces and put in trash.
- 6. Look, listen, and learn.** Observe wildlife from a distance and do not frighten or disturb beach critters. Beachcomb for shells, listen for birdcalls, and look for plants. Identify what you find with a field guide.
- 7. Report pollution.** If you see unusual beach conditions (garbage slicks, brown or red tides, fish-kills) notify your state. In New Jersey contact the Department of Environmental Protection by calling 877-WARN-DEP and contact COA.



over, please

8. Carpool, walk, or hike to the beach. Cars are a leading source of air and water pollution. Turn off your car if idling for more than 30 seconds; this will conserve fuel, save money, and reduce pollution.

9. Watch what you're done. Dunes and grasses protect inland areas from wind and wave action and help preserve the shore. Dunes provide habitat for birds and animals. If you see an animal entangled, injured, or in danger, contact a lifeguard, wildlife rehabilitator, or the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (609-266-0538).

10. Green Boating. Watercrafts should not be operated in shallow areas. Operate in deeper water where you are less likely to disturb habitat. Obey "fragile area" and "slow no wake" signs. Never discharge debris overboard. Use pump-out facilities.



Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:



www.CleanOceanAction.org

18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2

Highlands, NJ 07732

(732) 872-0111

Follow us on:

facebook 

Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.