

Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips for the Beach~



1. Leave only footprints in the sand.

Dispose of your waste properly - use trash and recycling receptacles or take it 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 (See tip #7).

2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Reduce your consumption of single-use disposable plastic such as bags, water bottles, straws, and utensils. Buy only reusable or recyclable products. Recycling reduces solid waste and saves resources. If your beach does not have recycling bins, take your items home for proper disposal and contact the town to suggest the need for these bins.

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, contact a lifeguard, local health department, or wildlife refuge center.

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. See COA's "10 Tips for Smokers."

5. Hold the line.

Keep all fishing line for recycling and send to: Pure Fishing America, Attn: Recycling, 1900 18th St, Spirit Lake, IA 51360-1099. If not possible bring to your local tackle shop or marina, or cut into small pieces and put in a trash can.

6. Report pollution.

Report any unusual beach conditions (garbage slicks, brown or red tides, fish-kills) to the appropriate state and federal agencies. In New Jersey contact the Department of Environmental Protection by calling 1-877-WARN-DEP and contact COA.



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7. Conduct local beach clean-ups.

Visit the COA website (www.cleanoceanaction.org) for details on how to organize a beach clean-up or join other volunteers at COA's Annual Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps. Visit the website for current dates.

8. Look, listen, and learn...

Observe wildlife from a distance. 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.

9. Carpool, walk, bike, or use mass transit 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.

10. 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).



Nonpoint source or "pointless" pollution is the number one 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 you can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:

www.CleanOceanAction.org

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