

Marine debris – what you can do!



Clean-up events don't just remove debris, they also provide valuable information about the amounts and types of rubbish found in different locations and help determining the sources of the debris.

Credit: Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Everyone can help reduce marine debris, even if you live far away from the coast. Land and ocean are connected through waterways, and every action from changing consumption habits to cleaning up the environment to big scale projects can make a difference to one of the largest environmental issues.

Consume wisely

The less rubbish we produce the less might end up in the ocean. To reduce rubbish avoid buying or using single-use items such as plastic bottles or bags, disposable plates and cutlery or products wrapped in plastic. Reuse plastic bags or bottles until they wear out and repair broken items instead of buying new ones. Simple alternatives help reduce our plastic consumption:

Australians use more than six billion plastic bags per year. Tied together they would stretch around the world 42 times!

- Use a stainless steel flask instead of plastic bottles.
- Buy recycled and reusable office supplies such as durable backpacks and refillable pens.
- Bring reusable shopping bags to the supermarket.
- Compost to use fewer rubbish bags.
- Buy and store food in jars.
- Bring a reusable lunch box.
- Use real plates and cutlery for picnics.
- Decorated scrap paper makes good book covers.
- Choose microbead free skin care products.



Look after your environment

Any litter you or someone else throws on the ground can end up in our waterways. By keeping the land clean you help keep the ocean clean too.

Credit: dreamstime.com, Angelika Volz

- Put your rubbish in the bin. If the container is already overflowing, take your rubbish with you.
- Dispose of cigarette butts properly or bring your own cigarette butt container.
- Recycle as much as you can. Check with your local council what goes in the recycling bin.
- Pick up some rubbish when you go for a walk on the beach, in the park, in your neighbourhood or along waterways.
- At sea, secure all equipment and rubbish and bring everything back to shore.



Get involved

- **Spread the word:** Talk to friends about marine debris and post educational signs in your community or on social media.
- **Organise** or participate in a beach/river or lake clean up.



Credit: Tangaroa Blue Foundation

- **Encourage** your local school to run an education program about marine debris.
- **Join** organisations that tackle marine debris or donate to them.
- **Support** the introduction of a container deposit scheme, less packaging or the ban of plastic bags in your state. In the Northern Territory, over 35 million containers were returned in the first year of the container refund system.

Below: In some places, floating booms trap debris at river mouths before it can enter the ocean.

Credit: Instituto EcoFaxina/
Marine Photo-bank



AUSTRALIAN
MARINE DEBRIS INITIATIVE



For more information
or to get involved visit:
www.tangaroablue.org

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