

# International Coastal Cleanup

## WHAT WILL YOU FIND?

### Food Wrappers

Even though many food wrappers look like foil, most are made of plastic.

★ Try buying in bulk and using reusable containers to store on-the-go snacks.

### Plastic Beverage Bottles

In the sun and salt water, plastic bottles become brittle and break into smaller pieces.

★ Opt for tap water or fountain drinks in a reusable bottle.

🕒 Breakdown Time: 450 years

### Forks, Knives & Spoons

Volunteers collect enough utensils—more than half a million in one day—to host a picnic for every resident of Washington, D.C.

★ Entertain with reusable forks, knives and spoons made from bamboo or recycled plastic.

### Fishing Gear

Abandoned fishing gear can trap and harm ocean life long after it is lost or discarded.

★ Don't leave your line behind; participate in a fishing-line recycling program.

🕒 Breakdown Time: 600 years

### Cups & Plates

Foam cups and plates cannot be easily recycled and often crumble into small pieces.

★ Grab a reusable mug that can go from coffee to smoothie with just a rinse.

🕒 Breakdown Time: 50 years

### Straws/Stirrers

Volunteers collect enough straws and stirrers in one day to line California's 840 mile coastline.

★ Next time you're out, politely refuse plastic straws or carry your own reusable straw.

### Bottle Caps

Plastic bottle caps are one of the most commonly found items in the stomachs of sea birds.

★ Keep your bottle caps to use for art projects or on-the-go games. Checkers, anyone?

### Cigarette Butts

The most common item found during beach cleanups, cigarette filters are actually plastic.

★ Properly dispose of cigarettes in receptacles or use a portable ashtray.

🕒 Breakdown Time: 1-10 years

### Takeout/Takeaway Containers

Volunteers collect enough containers in one day to get takeout for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day for 858 years.

★ Reuse these containers for tomorrow's leftovers or other storage needs.

### Plastic Grocery Bags

Plastic grocery bags pose high risks to sea turtles when they mistake them for their favorite food, jellyfish.

★ Toss reusable bags in your backpack, purse or car so they are handy for every trip to the store.

🕒 Breakdown Time: 1-20 years