We only have one ocean, so keep it clean.

DO NOT LITTER
What is a solution?

- Solving a problem
- Dealing with a difficult situation
SOURCES OF MARINE DEBRIS

1. LITTER DROPPED IN TOWNS AND CITIES
2. OVERFLOWING LITTER BINS
3. LITTER DROPPED AT THE BEACH
4. POORLY MANAGED INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISCHARGES
5. LOST SHIPPING CONTAINERS
6. LOST/DISCHARGED FISHING GEAR
7. RECREATIONAL LITTER BLOWN BY THE WIND
8. POORLY MANAGED LANDFILL SITES
9. MICROBEADS FROM PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS
10. SEWAGE RELATED LITTER
IMPACTS OF MARINE DEBRIS

INGESTION
Animals mistakenly eat plastic and other debris.

ENTANGLEMENT & GHOSTFISHING
Marine life gets caught and killed in ghost nets, trapped in derelict gear, and entangled in plastic bands and other marine debris.

HABITAT DAMAGE
Heavy marine debris crushes sensitive habitat, such as coral reefs and sea grass.

NON-NATIVE SPECIES
Marine debris transports alien and invasive species from one region to another.
1. CAN IT
   USE A TRASH CAN WITH LID

2. TAP IT
   DRINK TAP WATER IN A REUSABLE BOTTLE

3. STOW IT
   BE A GREEN BOATER WITH OCEAN CONSERVANCY’S GOOD MATE PROGRAM

4. BUTT IN
   WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR ASKING FOR POLICIES THAT ADDRESS OCEAN TRASH

5. REMOVE IT
   CLEAN UP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP
   WWW.SIGNUPTOCLEANUP.ORG

6. BUTT OUT
   USE AN ASHTRAY SO CIGARETTE BUTTS DON’T REACH WATERWAYS AND THE OCEAN

7. RECYCLE IT
   GO THE EXTRA MILE TO SORT AND SEPARATE ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED

8. REUSE IT
   TAKE ALONG YOUR REUSABLE COFFEE MUG, PICNIC SUPPLIES OR SHOPPING BAG

9. REFUSE IT
   BUY LESS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MANUFACTURED ITEMS WINDING UP AS TRASH IN THE OCEAN

10. REINVENT IT
    SEND EMAILS TO COMPANIES ASKING THEM TO REDUCE PACKAGING AND CREATE NEW OCEAN-FRIENDLY MATERIALS
8 Easy Ways to Use Less Plastic

Marine debris is comprised primarily of plastic, which marine life may ingest or become entangled in. Here are some easy ways you can use less plastic:

- Skip the bottled water and use a reusable water bottle.
- Avoid using a straw. Straws are one of the top 10 marine debris items found on beaches.
- Avoid using disposable silverware.
- If necessary, use paper instead of plastic.
- Or better yet, use reusable bags.
- Don’t discard your electronics - instead, repair or upgrade your devices. You can also turn them in for recycling.
- Use fewer garbage bags and compost!
- Wear clothing made of natural, non-synthetic fibers. Polyester clothing is actually made of plastic.

We each play a role in keeping our planet whole.

Advocate · Educate · Activate
Annual NOAA Marine Debris Program Art Contest

Help the NOAA Marine Debris Program raise awareness about marine debris!

Grab your art materials, be creative and tell us:

- How does marine debris impact the oceans and Great Lakes?
- What are you doing to help prevent marine debris?

Winning entries will be featured in our 2017 Marine Debris Calendar!

All students in grades K-8 from all U.S. states or territories enrolled in recognized public, private, or home schools are eligible to participate. Entries must be postmarked by Monday, November 30th.

For details please visit www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov