Marine Debris

Great Lakes Marine Debris

Where Does It Come From?

In general, marine debris comes from two places – indirectly from land, perhaps when litter washes into a storm drain and out to the lake, or directly from lake-based sources such as boats and fishing vessels. However, all types of marine debris can be traced to one source – people.

What Does It Do?

In the Great Lakes, marine debris affects the beauty of our environment, is a health and safety hazard, threatens our wildlife and natural resources, and comes at an economic cost. From a beach covered in trash to an animal entangled in fishing line, marine debris is a problem we cannot ignore.

Marine debris is any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.

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Ocean Conservancy

How Can I Help?

Marine debris is a problem we can solve together. Although marine debris is found worldwide, we can all help through the smallest actions.

Some easy tips:

- Get involved and participate in local cleanups in your area.
- Remember that our land and lakes are connected.
- Reduce the amount of waste you produce.
- Reuse items when you can. Choose reusable items over disposable ones.
- Recycle as much as possible! Bottles, cans, cell phones, ink cartridges, and many other items can be recycled.
- Dispose of waste properly no matter where you are.

For more information visit:
www.MarineDebris.noaa.gov