

# Ocean Litter

PLENTY OF PLASTIC IN THE SEA

## *Is it really that bad?*

YES! It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic by weight than fish in the entire ocean. But it is not just single use plastic bags that we are finding on the beach. Cigarette butts and food wrappers are the most common form of litter. On our local beaches, we also find a lot of broken glass, and forgotten beach toys.

*Always* be sure to bring home *everything* you take to the beach, or properly dispose of it.

## Food wrappers

This includes bottles, cans, plastic bags, cups, plastic utensils, juice boxes, plastic straws, plastic wrappers, paper napkins, and food waste itself.

## Cigarette butts

The filter may look like cotton, but it is made of plastic fibers called cellulose acetate, and therefore is not biodegradable. Also, chemicals in the cigarette contaminate the water supply.

## Glass

Broken glass on the beach is a danger to other beach visitors. Glass can also pose a fire hazard. If sunlight is focused just right through the glass, it could ignite surrounding tinder.



This is a photo of the amount of trash collected by two Beach Heroes along White Rock Beach in approximately one hour.



Beach Heroes carrying a bag full of forgotten beach toys and using said beach toys to collect more garbage. Picture taken at Blackie Spit, toys found at Crescent Beach

## How can you help?

- Reduce the amount of plastic you use in day to day life. The less plastic we use, the less will end up in the ocean
- Do not litter yourself. Make a conscious effort to throw away ALL the trash you produce at the beach.
- Leave the beach better than you found it by picking up any litter you see.
- Keep in touch with *Friends of Semiahmoo Bay*, and the *Beach Heroes* to find out when clean-ups are happening!

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