

TOP 15 MARINE DEBRIS ITEMS

RANK	MARINE DEBRIS ITEM	TOTAL COLLECTED	FUN FACT
1	Cigarette Butts	2,043,470	That's enough cigarettes that when laid end to end, they are the same length as 4,257 school buses. Did you know these butts (the filters) are actually made from type of plastic called cellulose acetate?
2	Food Wrappers	1,685,422	Did you know that most food wrappers, including chip bags and candy wrappers are actually plastic? (See Marine Debris Composition to learn more.)
3	Plastic Beverage Bottles	940,170	That's enough beverage bottles to give every fan attending the Super Bowl 11 sodas.
4	Plastic Bottle Caps	847,972	That is enough bottle caps that when laid end to end, they would cover 3 football fields.
5	Straws/Stirrers	555,007	In the United States alone, 500 million straws are used and thrown away every single day. (www.ecocycle.org/bestrawfree).
6	Plastic Grocery Bags	441,493	That's enough grocery bags that when combined, they weigh more than a pickup truck.
7	Glass Beverage Bottles	394,796	All glass bottles can be beautiful and are great for reusing as vases or for other craft projects.
8	Other Plastic Bags	389,088	These include garbage bags, sandwich bags, clothing store bags, newspaper bags and more.
9	Paper Bags	368,746	It is estimated Americans consume more than 10 billion paper bags each year (www.inteplast.us/ibs/InteGreen/facts.html). That's a lot of bags!
10	Beverage Cans	339,170	Did you know once recycled, an aluminum can becomes a new can in as little as 60 days (www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=recycling_facts_and_stats)?
11	Plastic Lids	312,996	This category includes lids for to-go drinks such as soda and coffee.
12	Metal Bottle Caps	304,638	Metal bottle caps are great for crafts. Collect metals caps to use as decorations for picture frames or games like checkers.
13	Plastic Cups and Plates	282,743	That is enough cups and plates to host a block party for every single person in Newark, New Jersey.
14	Plastic Takeout Containers	234,692	Next time, think about reusing these to-go food containers for storing things such as baseball cards or craft supplies.
15	Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	233,595	This category includes plastic tarps, crates, fishing bait containers and the foam packaging that surrounds new appliances and electronics. While it may seem crazy, even foam is a type of plastic!

Source: 2013 International Coastal Cleanup.

Please visit www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/ for the most up to date Top 10 List or www.coastalcleanupdata.org to find out your local top debris items found.