Clean Ocean Action's
New Jersey 2004 Beach Sweeps Data

A plastic shopping cart was collected from the beach in the Port Monmouth section of Middletown, NJ.

PLASTIC

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Cigarette Wrappers	1,666	1,213	2,879	0.85%
Food Wrappers/Bags	22,388	11,567	33,955	10.03%
Shopping Bags	4,146	1868	6,014	1.78%
Trash Bags	1,979	797	2,776	0.82%
Other Bags	4,017	1,593	5,610	1.66%
Beverage/Soda Bottles	8,414	5,382	13,796	4.08%
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	468	317	785	0.23%
Milk/Water Bottles	1,344	1,271	2,615	0.77%
Oil/Lube Bottles	404	262	666	0.20%
Other Bottles	1,124	676	1,800	0.53%
Buckets	240	183	423	0.12%
Caps/Lids	18,288	19,507	37,795	11.17%
Cap Rings	3,485	2,802	6,287	1.86%
Cigarette Filters	12,909	20,934	33,843	10.00%
Cigarette Lighters	796	596	1,392	0.41%
Cigar Tips	1,671	1,402	3,073	0.91%
Cups	3,311	2,302	5,613	1.66%
Diapers	128	95	223	0.07%
Fish Bait Bags/Cont.	574	317	891	0.26%
Fishing Line	767	408	1,175	0.35%
Fishing Lures, Floats	291	289	580	0.17%
Fishing Nets (small)	134	105	239	0.07%
Fishing Nets (large)	36	7	43	0.01%
Fork, Knives, Spoons	2,968	3,547	6,515	1.93%
Hard Hats	30	19	49	0.01%
Light Sticks	211	124	335	0.10%
Pieces of Plastic	20,035	10,024	30,059	8.88%
Ribbon/Tape (no balloon)	1,480	856	2,336	0.69%
Rope (short)	1,455	616	2,071	0.61%
Rope (long)	257	112	369	0.11%
6-Pack Holders	340	189	529	0.16%
Sheeting & Tarps	647	76	723	0.21%
Shotgun Shells	507	211	718	0.21%
Strapping Bands	606	335	941	0.28%
Straws & Stirrers	11,043	10,779	21,822	6.45%
Syringes	209	119	328	0.10%
Tampon Applicators	2,049	1,943	3,992	1.18%
Toys	1,101	1,203	2,304	0.68%
Vegetable Sacks	114	53	167	0.05%
Other Plastic	1,819	1,224	3,043	0.90%
PLASTIC TOTAL	**133,451**	**105,323**	**238,774**	**70.55%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**67.3%**	**75.1%**		

FOAM PLASTIC

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Buoys	510	226	736	0.22%
Cups	2,844	2,068	4,912	1.45%
Egg Cartons	77	56	133	0.04%
Fast Food Containers	673	444	1,117	0.33%
Meat Trays	162	106	268	0.08%
Packaging Material	3,694	1,248	4,942	1.46%
Pieces of Foam Plastic	10,931	5,792	16,723	4.94%
Plates	604	251	855	0.25%
Other Foam Plastic	430	437	867	0.26%
FOAM TOTAL	**19,925**	**10,628**	**30,553**	**9.03%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**10.0%**	**7.6%**		

RUBBER

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Mylar Balloons (only)	541	240	781	0.23%
Mylar Balloons (w/string)	464	239	703	0.21%
Rubber Balloons (only)	1,108	934	2,042	0.60%
Rubber Balloons (w/string)	770	565	1,335	0.39%
Condoms	365	303	668	0.20%
Gloves	314	182	496	0.15%
Tires (part)	113	55	168	0.05%
Tires (whole)	59	7	66	0.02%
Other Rubber	623	463	1,086	0.32%
RUBBER TOTAL	**4,357**	**2,988**	**7,345**	**2.17%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**2.2%**	**2.1%**		

(w/string - with string or ribbon)

METAL

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Bottle Caps	1,882	1,747	3,629	1.07%
Aerosol Cans	241	109	350	0.10%
Beverage Cans	4,294	3,115	7,409	2.19%
Food Cans	204	114	318	0.09%
Other Cans	195	76	271	0.08%
Crab/Fish Traps	61	20	81	0.02%
Fishing Hooks	92	92	184	0.05%
Fishing Sinkers	47	27	74	0.02%
Foil	982	560	1,542	0.46%
Rusty 55 Gallon Drums	11	2	13	0.00%
New 55 Gallon Drums	0	9	9	0.00%
Nails	445	233	678	0.20%
Pieces of Metal	503	243	746	0.22%
Pull & Pop Tabs	280	294	574	0.17%
Wire	635	185	820	0.24%
Other Metal	499	210	709	0.21%
METAL TOTAL	**10,371**	**7,036**	**17,407**	**5.14%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**5.2%**	**5.0%**		

CLOTH

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Blankets/Sheets/Towels	182	120	302	0.09%
Clothing	469	300	769	0.23%
Shoes & Sandals	314	318	632	0.19%
String	841	527	1,368	0.40%
Other Cloth	421	229	650	0.19%
CLOTH TOTAL	**2,227**	**1,494**	**3,721**	**1.10%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**1.1%**	**1.1%**		

GLASS

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Beverage Bottles	4,426	1,699	6,125	1.25%
Food Jars	318	106	424	0.13%
Other Bottles/Jars	293	128	421	0.12%
Fluorescent Light Tubes	26	17	43	0.01%
Light Bulbs	118	57	175	0.05%
Pieces of Glass	4,494	1,991	6,485	1.92%
Other Glass	175	81	256	0.08%
GLASS TOTAL	**9,850**	**4,079**	**13,929**	**4.12%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**5.1%**	**4.3%**		

PAPER

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Bags	701	472	1,173	0.35%
Cardboard	1,059	497	1,556	0.46%
Cartons	576	274	850	0.25%
Cups	1,606	934	2,540	0.75%
Newspapers/Magazines	1,179	818	1,997	0.59%
Pieces of Paper	4,127	2,464	6,591	1.95%
Plates	390	252	642	0.19%
Other Paper	492	353	845	0.25%
PAPER TOTAL	**10,130**	**6,064**	**16,194**	**4.79%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**5.1%**	**4.3%**		

WOOD

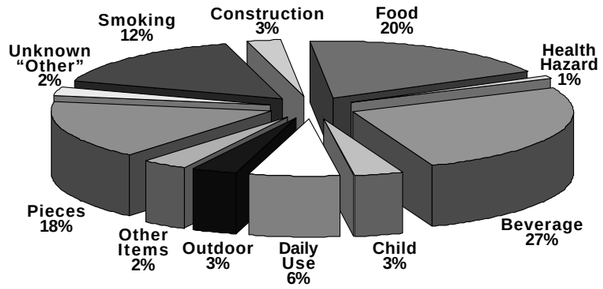
	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Crab/Lobster Traps	43	15	58	0.02%
Crates & Baskets	50	23	73	0.02%
Ice Cream Spoons/Sticks	484	441	925	0.27%
Lumber Pieces	6,807	1,796	8,603	2.54%
Pallets	68	21	89	0.03%
Other Wood	485	267	752	0.26%
WOOD TOTAL	**7,937**	**2,563**	**10,500**	**3.10%**
PERCENT OF TOTAL	**4.0%**	**1.8%**		

GRAND TOTALS

	Spring	Fall	Total
ITEMS	**198,248**	**140,175**	**338,423**
Percent	58.6%	41.4%	100%
Volunteers	**4,021**	**2,635**	**6,656**
Items Collected/Person	49	53	51
Tons of Debris Removed	26.7	18.9	**45.6**

Littered beaches mean more data and are proof that litter is a problem in this region.

Percent Breakdown by Related Usage



Group	*Total*	*Percent*	*Group*	*Total*	*Percent*
Beverage	91,824	27%	Construction	10,546	3%
Food	68,683	20%	Health Hazard	5,211	1%
Smoking	42,037	12%	Pieces	60,604	18%
Daily Use Items	20,920	6%	Unknown "Other"	8,208	2%
Outdoor	11,419	3%	Other Items	8,102	2%
Child	10,869	3%			

To understand the debris that is found on New Jersey's beaches and in waterways, the data must be studied in different ways. The eight main material categories provide the best information about the debris because the classifications are more clear, and the material and its use are easily identified. The sources are based on the probable location where the items are most likely used.

The 100-item datacard can be divided into eleven "use" categories:

Beverage: associated with people's eating habits (solid and liquid); consists of caps, straws, cups, and beverage bottles and cans.

Food: associated with people's eating habits (solid and liquid); includes food bags & wrappers, fast food packaging, plates, forks, knives & spoons.

Smoking: smoking-related products including cigarette filters, lighters, packaging, and cigar tips.

Daily Use Items: consists of items that people generally use every day (with reduced frequency, and lasts longer before disposal), and that does not fit in these other groups; includes clothing, tires, newspapers, packing material, shopping bags, and light bulbs.

Outdoor: items mainly from hunting, fishing, and boating.

Child: mostly children's toys and balloons.

Construction: consists of lumber, wire, and nails.

Health Hazard: includes personal items (such as condoms, diapers, syringes, and tampon applicators) that are associated with the spread of disease and viruses.

By taking responsibility for our actions, such as not littering, reducing usage, and reusing more, we have the power to greatly reduce our impact on the environment.

The remaining three groups account for 23% of all debris found, but cannot easily be associated with a particular use.

Pieces: consists of small parts of items made from the eight major material categories.

Other Items: includes items listed on the data card and identified by what is written in by volunteer, but not how they are used; includes "other" bags, "other" bottles, and "other" cans.

Unknown "Other:" a catch-all category for miscellaneous items found; classified by what material the item is made of, rather than its use.

By examining and reviewing how and where people use items, what items are made of, and how people dispose them, we can better understand the extent and magnitude of the problem of debris in the environment. By taking responsibility for our actions, such as not littering, reducing usage, and reusing more, we have the power to greatly reduce our impact on the environment.