

Clean Ocean Action's New Jersey 2005 Beach Sweeps Data™



Students from Lower Cape May Regional High School clean the beach in Cape May County

*Special note: Hundreds of additional volunteers picked-up debris without completing and returning COA's detour cards. Therefore, the numbers in this report are considered conservative.

	PLASTIC		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Food Wrappers/Bags	12,450	3,957	15,807	9.83%
Shopping Bags	2,519	901	3,420	2.13%
Trash Bags	923	292	1,215	0.76%
Other Bags	1,419	653	2,072	1.29%
Beverage/Soda Bottles	6,579	2,776	9,355	5.82%
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	251	99	350	0.22%
Milk/Water Bottles	699	232	931	0.58%
Motor Oil/Lube Bottles	240	56	296	0.18%
Tan Oil/Lotion Bottles	269	75	344	0.21%
Other Bottles	645	268	913	0.57%
Buckets/Crates/Bins	163	96	259	0.16%
Cap Rings	12,606	8,184	20,790	12.93%
Cigarette Filters	1,569	1,299	2,868	1.78%
Cigarette Lighters	531	769	1,300	0.83%
Cigarette Wrappers	547	250	797	0.50%
Cigar Tips	750	538	1,288	0.80%
Cups	1,908	755	2,663	1.66%
Diapers	52	22	74	0.05%
Fish Bait Bags/Cont.	284	89	373	0.23%
Fishing Line	392	369	761	0.49%
Fishing Lures, Floats	145	119	264	0.16%
Fishing Nets (small)	73	22	95	0.06%
Fishing Nets (large)	19	0	19	0.01%
Fork, Knives, Spoons	2,633	1,709	4,342	2.70%
Pieces of Plastic	8,517	3,252	11,769	7.32%
Ribbon/Tape (no balloon)	504	225	729	0.45%
Rope (short)	476	208	684	0.43%
Rope (long)	101	44	145	0.09%
6-Pack Holders	212	145	357	0.22%
Sheeting & Tarps	57	52	109	0.07%
Shotgun Shells	352	218	570	0.35%
Strapping Bands	191	162	353	0.22%
Straws & Stirrers	7,930	4,453	12,383	7.70%
Syringes	102	80	182	0.11%
Tampon Applicators	1,186	877	2,063	1.28%
Toys	854	477	1,331	0.83%
Vegetable Sacks	51	20	71	0.04%
Other Plastic	802	512	1,314	0.82%
PLASTIC TOTAL	76,796	39,633	115,829	72.02%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	70.6%	74.9%		

	CLOTH		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Blankets/Sheets/Towels	142	30	172	0.11%
Clothing	284	119	403	0.25%
Shoes & Sandals	276	110	386	0.24%
String	510	111	621	0.39%
Other Cloth	219	96	315	0.20%
CLOTH TOTAL	1,431	466	1,897	1.18%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	1.3%	0.9%		

FOAM PLASTIC

	FOAM PLASTIC		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Building Materials	374	187	561	0.35%
Buoys & Floats	149	133	282	0.18%
Cups	1,676	610	2,283	1.42%
Egg Cartons	36	9	45	0.03%
Fast Food Containers	421	169	590	0.37%
Meat Trays	159	57	216	0.13%
Packaging Material	1,162	284	1,446	0.90%
Pieces of Foam Plastic	6,426	2,794	9,223	5.73%
Plates	233	99	332	0.21%
Other Foam Plastic	294	129	423	0.26%
FOAM TOTAL	10,930	4,471	15,401	9.58%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	10.0%	8.6%		

METAL

	METAL		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Appliances	18	1	19	0.01%
Batteries (car)	3	1	4	0.00%
Batteries (other)	44	28	72	0.04%
Bottle Caps	1,084	390	1,474	0.92%
Aerosol Cans	161	43	204	0.13%
Beverage Cans	2,495	1,245	3,740	2.33%
Food Cans	172	76	248	0.15%
Other Cans	60	12	72	0.04%
Car Parts	37	17	54	0.03%
Crab/Fish Traps	22	3	25	0.02%
55 Gallon Drums (old)	2	1	3	0.00%
55 Gallon Drums (new)	1	0	1	0.00%
Fishing Hooks	21	157	178	0.11%
Fishing Sinkers	18	171	189	0.12%
Foil	480	153	633	0.39%
Nails	105	26	131	0.08%
Pieces of Metal	133	72	205	0.13%
Pull & Pop Tabs	91	90	181	0.11%
Wire	109	47	156	0.10%
Other Metal	217	321	538	0.33%
METAL TOTAL	5,273	2,854	8,127	5.05%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	4.8%	5.6%		

RUBBER

	RUBBER		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Mylar Balloons (only)	294	87	381	0.24%
Mylar Balloons (w/string)	187	81	268	0.17%
Rubber Balloons (only)	643	204	847	0.53%
Rubber Balloons (w/string)	350	149	499	0.31%
Condoms	162	70	232	0.14%
Gloves	172	67	239	0.15%
Tires (part)	34	7	41	0.03%
Tires (whole)	40	8	48	0.03%
Other Rubber	314	141	455	0.28%
RUBBER TOTAL	2,196	814	3,010	1.87%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	2.0%	1.6%		

(w/string - with string or ribbon)

GLASS

	GLASS		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Beverage Bottles	2,351	961	3,312	2.06%
Food Jars	177	64	241	0.15%
Other Bottles/Jars	214	79	293	0.18%
Light Bulbs	65	15	80	0.05%
Fluorescent Light Tubes	9	0	9	0.01%
Pieces of Glass	1,470	434	1,904	1.18%
Tile & Ceramic Pieces	224	45	269	0.17%
Other Glass	77	14	91	0.06%
GLASS TOTAL	4,587	1,612	6,199	3.85%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	4.2%	3.1%		

PAPER

	PAPER		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Bags	441	112	575	0.36%
Cardboard	342	134	454	0.28%
Cartons	308	73	381	0.24%
Cups	1,085	329	1,414	0.88%
Newspapers/Magazines	373	211	584	0.36%
Pieces of Paper	2,119	797	2,916	1.81%
Plates	286	61	347	0.22%
Other Paper	333	129	462	0.29%
PAPER TOTAL	5,287	1,846	7,133	4.44%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	4.9%	3.6%		

WOOD

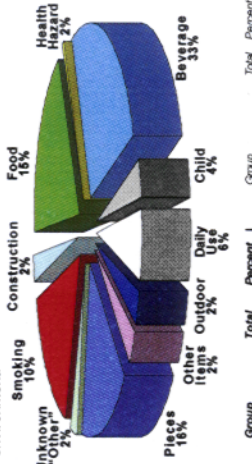
	WOOD		Total	Percent
	Spring	Fall		
Crab/Lobster Traps	16	1	17	0.01%
Crates & Baskets	31	5	36	0.02%
Ice Cream Spoons/Sticks	183	142	335	0.21%
Lumber Pieces	1,687	798	2,485	1.55%
Pallets	26	8	34	0.02%
Other Wood	270	58	328	0.20%
WOOD TOTAL	2,223	1,012	3,235	2.01%
PERCENT OF TOTAL	2.0%	1.9%		

GRAND TOTALS

ITEMS	GRAND TOTALS		Total
	Spring	Fall	
ITEMS	108,723	62,108	160,831
Percent	67.6%	32.4%	
Volunteers	2,025	744	2,769
Items Collected/Person	54	70	58
Tons of Debris Removed	14.6	7.0	21.6

Percent Breakdown by Related Use

Eight categories (described below) classify the uses and possible sources of the materials collected at the Beach Sweeps. The sources are based on how and where the items are most likely used. 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.



Group	Total	Percent	Group	Total	Percent
Beverage	61,751	39%	Construction	3,802	2%
Food	23,711	15%	Health Hazard	2,551	2%
Smoking	16,767	10%	Pieces	26,017	16%
Daily Use Items	9,331	6%	Unknown-Other	3,926	2%
Outdoor	5,878	2%	Other Items	3,350	2%
Child	3,902	2%			

The 106 items on the datacard used during the Beach Sweeps can be divided into 11 "use" categories based on how items are used:

Beverages: 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.

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

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 mostly from hunting, fishing, and boating.
Child: mostly children 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.

The remaining three groups account for 20% of all debris found, but cannot easily be associated with a particular use.
Other Items: small parts of items made from the eight material categories, 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 during the cleanup; classified by what material the item is made of, rather than its use.