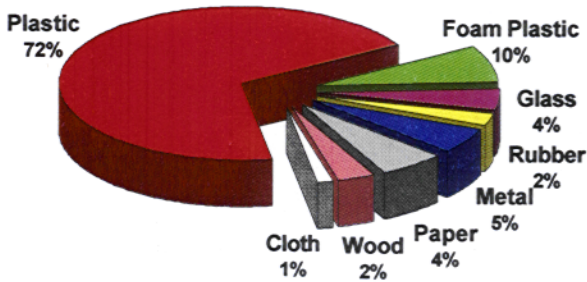


New Jersey's Marine Debris - 2005

Percent Breakdown by Material Type



The most prevalent type of debris found on New Jersey's beaches and in our waterways is plastic. The major reasons are: **1)** excess packaging in consumer products; **2)** disposable plastic materials found in nearly all consumer products; and **3)** the longevity of plastic, taking many decades to several hundred years to break down. Due to the strength of the material and its ability to last a long time, plastic items cause the most needless deaths of marine animals, and litter our waterways and beaches.

Three simple changes in life-styles can help reduce litter in the marine environment:

- 1) do not litter,
- 2) dispose of trash in a proper method so that it cannot be reintroduced into the environment, and
- 3) practice the three "R's": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

New Jersey's Dirty Dozen

Item	2005 Ranking	2004 Ranking	1993-2002 Ranking
20,790 Plastic Caps & Lids	1	1	4
15,807 Plastic Food Bags & Wrappers	2	2	2
13,454 Cigarette Filters	3	3	1
12,383 Straws & Stirrers	4	5	5
11,769 Plastic Pieces	5	4	3
9,355 Plastic Beverage & Soda Bottles	6	7	8
9,223 Foam Plastic Pieces	7	6	6
4,342 Plastic Fork, Knives & Spoons*	8	11	-
3,740 Metal Beverage Cans	9	9	11
3,420 Plastic Shopping Bags*	10	15	-
3,312 Glass Beverage Bottles	11	14	13
2,916 Glass Pieces	12	12	9
110,511 Total	69% of Total Cleanup		<i>*New category in 2003</i>

The "Dirty Dozen" are the top 12 items most frequently collected and recorded during the Beach Sweeps. These 12 items accounted for 69 percent of the debris collected at the 2005 beach cleanups. Overall, the items collected from beaches remained fairly consistent in their rankings for the past 13 years with slight variations.

For the second consecutive year, plastic caps and lids topped the Dirty Dozen list. In recent years, caps and lids of all sizes and colors have become more noticeable and frequent on beaches. Perhaps caps and lids litter our shores due to the increase in people's consumption of beverages in plastic bottles, increasing the likelihood that caps are tossed into the environment or left behind as trash.

Beach Sweeps Highlights

Atlantic & Cape May Counties

SPRING:

One hundred students from Lower Cape May Regional High School cleaned four miles of beaches from the Villas, around Cape May Point, to Cape May. At a new Sweeps site, Cape May Court House, 30 volunteers picked up over 200 pounds of trash, including several shopping carts. The Tri State Chapter of the Parrothead Club spent three hours cleaning Avalon's beaches where they found a spinnaker for a sailboat (pictured). Two hundred students from the Eugene A. Tighe Elementary School collected nearly 2,500 pieces of debris from Margate's beaches, including a heavy piece of rope (pictured).

FALL:

Heavy thunderstorms washed-out many cleanups in South Jersey, and threatened others. However, volunteers hit the beaches when all was safe. The REBEL group of Cape May County collected over 1,650 cigarette filters from Wildwood's beach. Eighteen students from the Uptown School in Atlantic City collected 80 shotgun shells from a small beach along the city's inlet area. Along Lake Fred, students (pictured) from Richard Stockton College found a bowling ball, hockey puck, and a hammer.

New Sweeps Site: Cape May Court House



(Clockwise from top) Volunteers' big find in Avalon: a spinnaker; College students clean the beach of Lake Fred; Students in Margate unearth a heavy rope