

# Clean Ocean Action's New Jersey 2003 Beach Sweeps Data

## PLASTIC

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Cigarette Wrappers	1,295	1,717	3,012	1.24%
Food Wrappers/Bags	7,718	11,590	19,308	7.96%
Shopping Bags	2,306	2,362	4,668	1.92%
Trash Bags	765	1,199	1,964	0.81%
Other Bags	1,542	2,461	4,003	1.65%
Beverage/Soda Bottles	4,604	5,539	10,143	4.18%
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	297	241	538	0.22%
Milk/Water Bottles	543	559	1,102	0.45%
Oil/Lube Bottles	226	174	400	0.16%
Other Bottles	542	810	1,352	0.56%
Buckets	229	138	367	0.15%
Caps/Lids	8,552	14,704	23,256	9.58%
Cap Rings	1,403	2,797	4,200	1.73%
Cigarette Filters	7,326	22,581	29,907	12.32%
Cigarette Lighters	352	559	911	0.38%
Cigar Tips	685	2,085	2,770	1.14%
Cups	1,618	2,100	3,718	1.53%
Diapers	71	114	185	0.08%
Fish Bait Bags/Cont.	304	400	704	0.29%
Fishing Line	306	991	1,297	0.53%
Fishing Lures, Floats	154	262	416	0.17%
Fishing Nets (small)	63	96	159	0.07%
Fishing Nets (large)	15	27	42	0.02%
Fork, Knives, Spoons	1,682	3,260	4,942	2.04%
Hard Hats	12	14	26	0.01%
Light Sticks	95	202	297	0.12%
Pieces of Plastic	7,215	12,257	19,472	8.02%
Rope (short)	496	1,100	1,596	0.66%
Rope (long)	118	285	403	0.17%
6-Pack Holders	181	218	399	0.16%
Sheeting & Tarps	177	157	334	0.14%
Shotgun Shells	195	343	538	0.22%
Strapping Bands	259	495	754	0.31%
Straws & Stirrers	5,034	12,046	17,080	7.04%
Syringes	119	71	190	0.08%
Tampon Applicators	841	1,004	1,845	0.76%
Toys	548	1,079	1,627	0.67%
Vegetable Sacks	49	65	114	0.05%
Other Plastic	675	1,434	2,109	1.87%
<b>PLASTIC TOTAL</b>	<b>58,969</b>	<b>108,873</b>	<b>167,842</b>	<b>69.15%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>66.1%</b>	<b>71.0%</b>		

## FOAM PLASTIC

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Buoys	208	165	373	0.15%
Cups	1,479	1,818	3,297	1.36%
Egg Cartons	61	41	102	0.04%
Fast Food Containers	459	592	1,051	0.43%
Meat Trays	82	75	157	0.06%
Packaging Material	1,868	1,304	3,172	1.31%
Pieces of Foam Plastic	4,854	4,894	9,748	4.02%
Plates	182	325	507	0.21%
Other Foam Plastic	233	344	577	0.24%
<b>FOAM TOTAL</b>	<b>9,426</b>	<b>9,558</b>	<b>18,984</b>	<b>7.82%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>		

## RUBBER

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Mylar Balloons (only)	219	494	713	0.29%
Mylar Balloons (w/string)	162	499	661	0.27%
Rubber Balloons (only)	390	971	1,361	0.56%
Rubber Balloons (w/string)	233	1,260	1,493	0.62%
Condoms	164	160	324	0.13%
Gloves	151	247	398	0.16%
Tires (part)	67	100	167	0.07%
Tires (whole)	26	22	48	0.02%
Other Rubber	256	577	833	0.34%
<b>RUBBER TOTAL</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>2.47%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>		

## METAL

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Bottle Caps	1,218	1,646	2,864	1.18%
Aerosol Cans	139	153	292	0.12%
Beverage Cans	2,146	3,769	5,915	2.44%
Food Cans	98	166	264	0.11%
Other Cans	86	146	232	0.10%
Crab/Fish Traps	34	23	57	0.02%
Fishing Hooks	30	99	129	0.05%
Fishing Sinkers	45	67	112	0.05%
Foil	260	565	825	0.34%
Rusty 55 Gallon Drums	2	1	3	0.00%
New 55 Gallon Drums	4	0	4	0.00%
Nails	262	484	746	0.31%
Pieces of Metal	176	391	567	0.23%
Pull & Pop Tabs	231	201	432	0.18%
Wire	153	304	457	0.19%
Other Metal	166	473	639	0.26%
<b>METAL TOTAL</b>	<b>5,050</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>13,538</b>	<b>5.58%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>5.7%</b>		<b>5.5%</b>	

## CLOTH

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Blankets/Sheets/Towels	54	222	276	0.11%
Clothing	285	514	799	0.33%
Shoes & Sandals	193	342	535	0.88%
String	264	882	1,146	0.47%
Other Cloth	198	383	581	0.24%
<b>CLOTH TOTAL</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>1.37%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>		

## GLASS

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Beverage Bottles	2,487	3,033	5,520	2.27%
Food Jars	101	116	217	0.09%
Other Bottles/Jars	154	302	456	0.19%
Fluorescent Light Tubes	19	12	31	0.01%
Light Bulbs	37	75	112	0.05%
Pieces of Glass	1,659	2,686	4,345	1.79%
Other Glass	73	216	289	0.12%
<b>GLASS TOTAL</b>	<b>4,530</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>10,970</b>	<b>4.52%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>		

## PAPER

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Bags	449	641	1,090	0.45%
Cardboard	563	870	1,433	0.59%
Cartons	220	395	615	0.25%
Cups	870	1,156	2,026	0.83%
Newspapers/Magazines	749	801	1,550	0.64%
Pieces of Paper	2,147	3,950	6,097	2.51%
Plates	168	319	487	0.20%
Other Paper	349	559	908	0.37%
<b>PAPER TOTAL</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>8,691</b>	<b>14,206</b>	<b>5.85%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>		

## WOOD

	Spring	Fall	Total	Percent
Crab/Lobster Traps	23	16	39	0.02%
Crates & Baskets	21	28	49	0.02%
Ice Cream Spoons/Sticks	123	730	853	0.35%
Lumber Pieces	2,641	3,558	6,199	2.55%
Pallets	32	46	78	0.03%
Other Wood	247	374	621	0.26%
<b>WOOD TOTAL</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>4,752</b>	<b>7,839</b>	<b>3.23%</b>
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>		

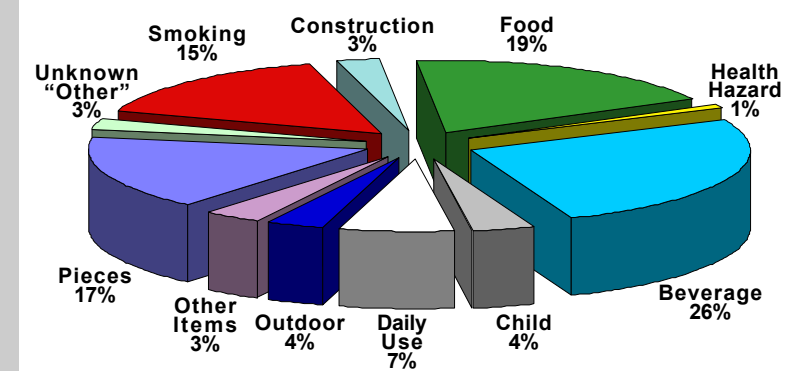
## GRAND TOTALS

	Spring	Fall	Total
<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>89,239</b>	<b>153,475</b>	<b>242,714</b>
Percent	36.8%	63.2%	
<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>4,622</b>
Items Collected/Person	47	56	52
Tons of Debris Removed	12.0	20.5	32.6



Lake Fred Cleanup, NJ

## Percent Breakdown by Related Usage



Group	Total	Percent	Group	Total	Percent
Beverage	62,872	26%	Construction	7,776	3%
Food	45,907	19%	Health Hazard	2,544	1%
Smoking	37,215	15%	Pieces	40,229	17%
Daily Use Items	16,106	7%	Unknown "Other"	6,557	3%
Outdoor	8,770	4%	Other Items	6,043	3%
Child	8,695	4%			

To understand the debris that is found on New Jersey's beaches and 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 is 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 based on how items are used in New Jersey:

**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 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 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 during the cleanup; 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.

Island  
Beach  
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