International Coastal Cleanup

WHAT WILL YOU FIND?

**Plastic Beverage Bottles**
In the sun and salt water, plastic bottles become brittle and break into smaller pieces.
- Opt for tap water or fountain drinks in a reusable bottle.
  
**Forks, Knives & Spoons**
Volunteers collect enough utensils—more than half a million in one day—to host a picnic for every resident of Washington, D.C.
- Entertain with reusable forks, knives and spoons made from bamboo or recycled plastic.

**Food Wrappers**
Even though many food wrappers look like foil, most are made of plastic.
- Try buying in bulk and using reusable containers to store on-the-go snacks.

**Fishing Gear**
Abandoned fishing gear can trap and harm ocean life long after it is lost or discarded.
- Don’t leave your line behind; participate in a fishing-line recycling program.
  
**Cups & Plates**
Foam cups and plates cannot be easily recycled and often crumble into small pieces.
- Grab a reusable mug that can go from coffee to smoothie with just a rinse.

**Straws/Stirrers**
Volunteers collect enough straws and stirrers in one day to line California’s 840 mile coastline.
- Next time you’re out, politely refuse plastic straws or carry your own reusable straw.

**Bottle Caps**
Plastic bottle caps are one of the most commonly found items in the stomachs of sea birds.
- Keep your bottle caps to use for art projects or on-the-go games. Checkers, anyone?

**Cigarette Butts**
The most common item found during beach cleanups; cigarette filters are actually plastic.
- Properly dispose of cigarettes in receptacles or use a portable ashtray.

**Plastic Grocery Bags**
Plastic grocery bags pose high risks to sea turtles when they mistake them for their favorite food, jellyfish.
- Less reusable bags in your backpack, purse or car so they are handy for every trip to the store.

**Takeout/Takeaway Containers**
Volunteers collect enough containers in one day to get takeout for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day for 858 years.
- Reuse these containers for tomorrow’s leftovers or other storage needs.

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**Ocean Conservancy**

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