



Beach Clean Up Guidelines

- Trash in our oceans and waterways is a serious problem that threatens the marine environment and dependent livelihoods.
- **80%** of marine trash comes from **land-based** sources.
- It is an entirely man-made problem but it is also entirely preventable.
- **Refuse** single-use items. **Reduce** your waste. **Reuse** items. **Recycle** trash.
- Run **clean-up events** to stop waste entering the ocean and to raise community awareness about the issue of marine debris.
- Record **data** on the trash you collect to influence long-term solutions and decision making.
- Become part of the **solution**. Make a difference!

Before the Clean-up

1. Choose a location

- Identify the area you want to clean - make sure there will be trash to collect!
- Make sure it is safe, accessible and that you are allowed to be there.
 - Identify possible hazards such as busy roads, power lines, rocky/slippery areas or high tides, and overcome these e.g. by changing location, or preparing your participants.
- Identify where you will have your assembly point, trash collection point and your first aid station.
- Decide how many teams of volunteers you will need to clean the site.
 - Each trash collection team should have:
 - One (1) data recorder to complete “Ocean Trash Data Forms” for Ocean Conservancy. Download this [here](#).
 - Two (2) people to hold the trash bag.
 - Other people to collect trash.

2. Promote your event

- Contact everyone you want to take part.
 - Make it compulsory for all staff to participate and encourage your guests, other local businesses and community members to join.
- Remember that busy professionals might not read e-mails and that community members are best engaged through face-to-face contact or posters.



3. Gather your equipment

- Pens/pencils
- [Ocean Conservancy data forms](#)
- Clipboards
- Gloves
- Trash bags e.g. rice sacks, cement bags or black sacks
- Cutters, scissors, trowels (to remove trapped items)
- Weighing scales (to weigh your total trash collected)
- Hazardous waste container e.g. empty liquid detergent bottle with lid (for sharp materials e.g. cut glass/needles) clearly labelled
- Drinking water
- Snacks (**no disposable or single-use items**)
- Cameras (to document the event)
- First-aid kit

4. Arrange how the trash will be removed from the site

- Can you arrange collection via garbage trucks? Will your local government help?

During the Clean-up

1. Brief participants:

- Provide volunteers with an event itinerary:
 1. Registration
 2. Collect trash & data
 3. Weigh trash and return completed data forms
 4. Refreshments
 5. Thank you and group photo
 6. Trash removal from site
- Provide materials e.g. data forms, trash sacks and gloves.
- Where recycling is available, explain which items are recyclable and how to keep them separate from the rest of the trash.
- Explain how to complete the data forms.
- Explain where the trash should be weighed and left for collection.
- Tell volunteers your most important **dos** and **don'ts**:
 - **Do** collect non-biodegradable items e.g. plastic, glass, metal or polystyrene.
 - **Do** collect small items e.g. polystyrene balls or sweet wrappers.



- **Do** collect data on the provided data forms.
- **Do** work together.
- **Do** report back to the weighing station to weigh your collected trash and return your completed data forms to the organiser.
- **Do** deposit collected trash in the allocated place.
- **Do** ensure trash is collected.
- **Don't** collect biodegradable items e.g. driftwood, coconuts, seeds, seaweed, coral, shells or other vegetation.
- **Don't** burn any trash you collect.
- **Don't** trample vegetation.

2. Document the event

- Take before and after photos of the site.
- Take photos during the event.
- Make sure all the trash has been weighed and recorded.
- Make sure all data forms have been filled out correctly and returned.
- Ensure all trash and recycling is removed properly from the site.
- Make sure you do not leave any waste from the event itself.

After the Clean-up

1. Say thank you!

- Have a short thank you ceremony to acknowledge participants.
- Take a final group photo to celebrate everyone's hard work.
- Send your photos and details of the clean up to info@greenfins.net - we'll promote your hard work too!

2. Share your results

- Estimate the distance you cleaned for reporting your data.
- Report your data to the appropriate organisations e.g. photograph and email completed data forms to cleanup@oceanconservancy.org.
- Encourage people to share their experiences with you e.g. photos or fun stories.
- Spread the word in person and on social media. Tell people about your good work and encourage them to do the same.



References

Ocean Conservancy. 2015. Trash Free Seas Do-It-Yourself Clean-up Tool Kit:
<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/do-it-yourself-cleanup-tool.html>