

Field Guide – Marine Debris Interruptions

Selected Oregon Marine Debris Items to Investigate

If you've collected marine debris at a local beach clean-up, you may have come across one of more of these objects. Pick one and research its story to find out what it is, where it may have come from, and what could be done to prevent it from ending up on the beach.



Yellow rope fragment

These 6" - 12" pieces of cut yellow line are made up of three strands twisted together. Sometimes the three strands come apart and can be found singly. Occasionally some pieces are made of one black strand and two yellow strands.



Plastic wad

One end of this plastic cylinder is separated into "arms" that spread out like flower petals. Surface may appear pocked or bumpy. Typically appears in white or grey but can come in other light colors.



Sand toy

Shovels, pails, and playful molds, these objects often come in bright colors.



White plastic band

This white band may be found as a loop or as a broken long strand up to 3 ft in total length.

**Black funnel**

Black plastic cone-shaped basket, 5" diameter at the circular opening which tapers to a smaller diameter over 8 inches in length. May be found intact or in broken pieces.

**Balloon**

Latex or mylar balloons come in all sorts of colors and may or may not have string or ribbon attachments.

**Gray tube**

Hard plastic tube, usually ranging from 1" to 8" in length. Typically appears in black or gray, but sometimes comes in other colors like green or blue.

**Water bottle**

There are many types of bottles and food/drink containers that end up as marine debris. Pick one type that is easily described and identifiable to investigate.

This is just a small selection of the possible items that could be investigated.