

'ACT' now! You can make a difference!

Adopt environmentally-friendly practices!

- ☞ Dispose of garbage properly; use bins with covers to prevent animals from spilling items into nearby drains;
- ☞ Do not dispose of unwanted items in waterways - creeks, river, canals & trenches;
- ☞ Adopt the 3'R's of waste management - **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**;
- ☞ Use cloth bags instead of plastic bags when shopping; go for fresh fruits and vegetables instead of packaged items; and
- ☞ Composting is a great way to reduce kitchen and yard waste while producing good soil material.

Communicate the dangers of marine litter!

- ☞ Educate your family and friends about the implications of their actions (bad practices such as littering) on our marine/coastal environment;
- ☞ Keep up to date with environmental issues on the internet, newspapers, radio and by subscribing to environmentally-based publications; and
- ☞ Do not turn a blind eye to acts of indiscriminate dumping - report such matters to the local authorities.

Take action!

- ☞ Organize or take part in local clean-up exercises;
- ☞ Support and promote environmental activities of groups; and
- ☞ Join or help to form a community-based environment committee or club that seeks to highlight environmental issues in your area and take positive action to counteract marine littering.

Guyana's Action to Combat Marine Litter

üOutreach activities over the years have focused mainly on Solid Waste Management with little emphasis being placed on marine litter. However, there has been several local initiatives that have sought to raise awareness of the issues of marine litter. For example, the EPA has collaborated with Guybernet over the years for the International Coastal Clean-up Day. This exercise contributes to the gathering of marine litter data for the Ocean Conservancy.

üAn evaluation of the marine litter issue in Guyana was conducted through the EPA which provided raw data for analysis and formation of several recommendations as to actions needed to curb this problem.

üThe EPA has embarked on a number of outreach activities to raise awareness. These include the development of education materials, media programmes and presentations to schools, private sector, Non-Governmental and Government Organisations.

üThe EPA recognizes that it is only through participation of all stakeholders that the problem of marine litter can be effectively addressed.

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Marine Litter

*Healthy Marine Systems ...
... for a Healthy Planet*



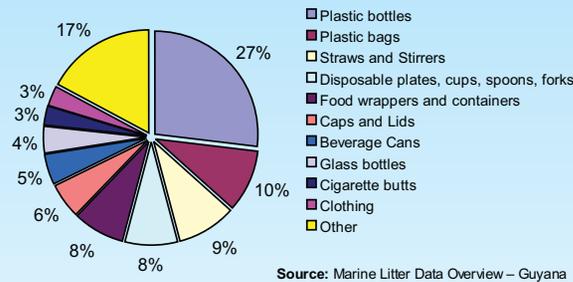
What is Marine Litter?

Marine Litter is waste discarded by humans - whether deliberately or accidentally, that ends up in our coastal and marine environment.

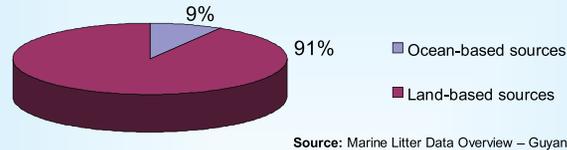
It has been estimated that approximately 80% of marine litter originates from land-based sources and the remaining from ocean-based sources.

Data collected indicate that marine debris mainly comprise materials that are non-biodegradable or not easily degraded.

Pie Chart showing the Ten Most Common Items Found as Marine Litter in Guyana



Pie Chart showing percentage Marine Litter that originates from Ocean-based Sources versus Land-based Sources in Guyana



Sources of Marine Litter

Land-based



✍ Waste from municipal landfills located on the coast.



✍ Discharge of untreated municipal sewage and storm water.

✍ Industrial facilities.

✍ River transport.

✍ Tourism and beach-going leftovers.

Sea/Ocean - based

✍ Merchant shipping, ferries and cruise liners.

✍ Fishing vessels.

✍ Aquaculture facilities.

✍ Recreational activities.

✍ Offshore oil and gas platforms.



Effects of Marine Litter

Economic & Aesthetic

Marine litter degrades the quality of our coastal and marine environments. Both local citizens and tourists look forward to visiting these areas for their beauty and serenity.

Presence of marine litter often deter tourists from visiting our seawall and beaches which results in a reduction of possible revenue earnings from tourism. Also, additional monies have to be spent by our government to remove marine litter.



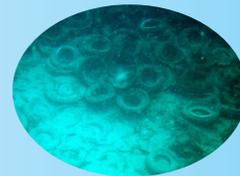
Human Health & Safety

Marine litter poses many health and safety issues to our local people. Many accidents may occur as a result of the presence of marine litter which affect fishermen - out at sea, or people that visit our local beaches or seawall.

Plastics, pieces of wood and rope can get caught in boat propellers and can also affect swimmers. Sharp items such as syringes, razors and broken glass often wash up on the shores and can cause serious injuries.

Habitat Destruction

Marine litter can affect water quality thereby destroying habitats and entire ecosystems. Pollution through the transfer of toxic substances or the dragging of debris such as tyres and barrels by the ocean current on the ocean floor, all contribute to habitat destruction.



Direct threat to Marine Life

Every year hundreds of species are affected including sea turtles, dolphins, seals, fishes and birds. Many individuals die as a result of marine litter. Marine litter can cause injury by entanglement in discarded fishing nets and six-pack holders; choking on plastic bottle caps and cigarette butts; and even digestive problems such as blockage due to ingestion of marine litter.

