

# WORLD OCEANS DAY

A GUIDE TO CLEAN-UPS  
AND LITTER  
COLLECTIONS

#MAKEWAVES 

BY



FOR



WITH



2021  
2030

Décennie des Nations Unies  
pour les sciences océaniques  
au service du développement durable

**THIS WORLD  
OCEANS DAY,  
TAKE ACTION  
TO PROTECT  
AND CELEBRATE  
THE OCEAN.**

**BY ORGANIZING  
CLEAN UP ACTIONS  
AND LITTER  
COLLECTIONS  
NEAR YOUR PLACE  
OF LIVING,  
YOU MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.**

**YOU CONTRIBUTE  
TO RAISE  
AWARENESS.**



**YOU MAKE WAVES.**





# WHY ORGANIZE A CLEAN UP?

In this guide, you will find tips and advice on how to organize clean up actions on beaches, lakes and rivers banks wherever you live.

- A practical action with a direct positive impact on the field to protect our environment.
- An initiative that generates public awareness about the impact of waste related pollution.
- It spreads the word that there is no small action to save the oceans. Everyone can be an actor of change in his/her own way.

# TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE COLLECTION DAY: START PLANNING!



## 1) CHOOSE A DATE

**World Oceans Day takes place annually on 8 June.**

This international day supports the implementation of worldwide Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and fosters public interest in the protection of the ocean and the sustainable management of its resources.

It is a perfect choice of date.

However, in 2021, June 8 falls on a Tuesday. Feel free to organize your event the weekend before or the weekend after to allow as many people as possible to attend. To make waves, Oceans Day is every day!

**Don't forget to register your event on the official World Oceans Day website:** <https://unworldoceansday.org/calendar/>



## 2) CHOOSE A LOCATION

Choose a location that is easily accessible to the public and that doesn't present any major participant safety issues, such as steep or high river banks and tides.

Certain zones that you may be proposing to work in could be managed by various institutions/organizations or present special features, such as being protected as nest building zones.



### 3) CONTACT THE RELEVANT LOCAL AUTHORITY TO THE LOCATION OF YOUR CLEANUP EVENT

These authorities must be informed by letter that you are planning to hold an event. We suggest that you verify this information as early as possible with the relevant council and advise those concerned.

You may also want to check with the local authority about the collection site procedures for the recovery of collected litter. You should consider the provision of bins, for household waste and selective sorting at the collection site, transfer of collected waste to a dedicated collection site.

If you ask for it, the local authority is likely to provide you with rubbish skips and waste sorting bins to take the collected waste to the various collection sites.



### 4) INVITE LOCALS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Do not hesitate to invite friends, family, local associations, local shop owners and employees, to participate in your clean up. They can add value to your event, by bringing more people, creating a fun atmosphere, providing logistical support or offering in-kind donations, etc.



### 5) ADVERTISE

Don't forget to get the word out locally about your collection and invite everyone along. To help you with event promotion, we provide you with social media visuals and banners.

Our hashtags are **#worldoceanday** and **#makewaves**.



## 6) CHECK WHAT YOU NEED

The collection of waste abandoned in nature or swept by the sea to the shore requires adapted equipment.

### THE MINIMUM EQUIPMENT INCLUDES:

#### GLOVES



Provide as many gloves as there are participants or instruct participants to bring as many gloves as possible on the day of the clean up

#### NETS



#### SOLID SHOES



#### WASTE TONGS



#### GARBAGE BAGS



(recycled of course)

#### HESSIAN BAGS



#### SMALL HOMEMADE CONTAINERS



such as bottles, glass jars... for collecting cigarette butts separately

#### RECYCLING BOXES



for the sorting and recovery of waste



To ensure the safety of the clean-up, do not forget a complete first aid kit.

# ON THE DAY OF THE CLEAN-UP EVENT



## 1) WELCOME PARTICIPANTS

Choose an easily identifiable and accessible meeting point and give all participants a warm greeting. Indicate clearly and exactly where the collection will be carried out.

## 2) ANNOUNCE SECURITY MEASURES

	Keep your shoes on when picking up		Do not touch dangerous waste (sharp, prickly...) or suspicious waste (strains, chemicals, syringes)
	Avoid using motor vehicles to travel on the beach		Do not walk on the dune, nor collect the wood on it (it stabilizes the good condition of the dunes)
	Follow the yellow signs for your safety		Beware of the watercourse downstream of a hydroelectric dam, as it presents a risk due to the water releases necessary for electricity production
	Children must be accompanied by an adult		Be careful of the height of the banks, rocks, cliffs, these areas are sometimes slippery
	Use special gloves		If you notice a situation that endangers people, call for help via your national/regional emergency numbers
	Do not swim		Do not attempt to pick up garbage in/on the water



### 3) DISTRIBUTE COLLECTION EQUIPMENT

In order to prevent waste, please make sure you distribute the material sparingly to participants and try to recoup any material that can be reused at the end of the collection (make use of the bags to collect materials and fill them.)



- One garbage bag for two participants.
- Three hessian bags per collection.
- One pair of gloves for each participant.



### 4) COORDINATE LITTER COLLECTION

Before kicking off, take a few minutes to explain to the participants what marine litter is, and explain what type of waste need to be collected.

Remind participants not to collect things of organic origin (pieces of wood, or organic debris from high tide marks etc.) so as to protect the area's ecosystem.

There are three different methods to make waste collection both efficient and fun, according to the number of participants and the level of pollution in the area you have chosen to clean:

- Split up into groups according to type of litter (e.g. plastic bottles, cigarette butts, polystyrene fragments etc.).
- Create groups assigned to different collecting zones.
- Turn it into a competition, creating teams.

**For efficient waste collection, we recommend starting at the furthest point from the meeting point and working backwards, as this will minimize the distance your participants have to carry full garbage bags.**



## 5) AT THE END OF THE CLEAN UP

- Weigh the waste collected.
- Identify useful data: Which type of waste did you collect the most of? What is the most unusual piece of rubbish you've found?
- Take a group photo.
- Manage the rubbish.



### SORT OUT THE WASTE COLLECTED

Check the nature of the collected waste: plastic, cardboard, paper, aluminum, steel, iron, glass and their condition (soiled, new, degraded, etc.).

#### **Sort the waste by category according to the instructions sent by local authorities:**

- Plastic waste that has been left recently and has not degraded, is to be kept separate and disposed of at your nearest recycling point after your collection.
- Degraded and brittle plastics (degraded because of UV, wave and salt water) need to be kept separately and disposed of in specialized facilities as their recycling process is more complex than recent plastics.
- Non-glass recyclable packaging, i.e. aluminum cans, paper and cardboard packaging, food cartons, newspapers, magazines and paper... can be recycled as long as they're in a reasonable condition (i.e. if they don't look like they've spent years outside and haven't rusted). You can put these in their own bag and dispose of them at the nearest recycling facility.
- Glass packaging, i.e. glass bottles, jars and pots... can be recycled as long as they're not full of sediment.
- Other glass items such as tableware or perfume bottles are not recyclable.
- Cigarette butts are recyclable. Make sure you identify local companies able to provide this service for free.
- Other non-recyclable waste.



**Make sure the rubbish you have collected then leave the natural environment and join the treatment process.**

- Take the recyclable waste sorted as per above to the closest sorting and recycling facility.
- Dispose the recyclable glass in a glass recycling bin.
- Bring toxic or dangerous waste to the city waste collection center. Avoid the use of regular bin bags for those.
- Dispose of the rubbish in the skips or containers made available to you by the relevant municipal authorities.
- Ensure that your waste is not disposed of on the streets, roadsides or beside public / private rubbish bins, which would only increase the risk of your rubbish returning to the natural environment).



**Thank all participants for their contribution and organize a friendly zero waste drink.**

A clean-up event is the perfect opportunity to discuss the issue of marine litter and share simple eco-gestures to reduce single-use plastic and thus marine plastic pollution.



#### **THE BASIC MATERIAL FOR A ZERO WASTE DRINK**

- ✓ **reusable cups** made of lightweight and durable stainless steel or reusable plastic.
- ✓ **reusable cutlery**, edible or compostable.
- ✓ **reusable hermetic glass**, stainless steel or plastic boxes.
- ✓ **cloth napkins** or kitchen towels (rather than paper towels).
- ✓ **Bamboo** or stainless-steel straws.
- ✓ **Paper bags** for possible waste.

#### **NIBBLING IN ZERO WASTE MODE**

- Olives in bulk.
- Cheese to cut.
- Seasonal fruits and vegetables (melon, watermelon, grapes...).
- Dried fruits in bulk (almonds, cashew nuts, raisins, sunflower seeds, pistachios, etc.).

- Raw vegetables: radishes, carrots, cucumber and cherry tomatoes.
- Homemade popcorn to replace the packet of chips.
- Homemade spreads with bread: hummus with chickpeas, eggplant caviar, tomato pesto, black olive spread...
- Homemade quiches, pies and salty cakes: to be transported in a reusable container.



**To be banned:** commercially packaged products (aperitif biscuits, fruit or vegetable in plastic packaging, spreads and dips in plastic jars, etc.).



#### **Sip in zero waste mode**

- Wine or juice in boxes or in bulk.
- Iced tea or other homemade drinks, to be carried in thermos flasks.

**Avoid:** plastic straws, individual packages.

**Beware of capsules** that can hide very easily in the sand... and stay there for a very long time. Not only do they pollute, but they also rust and can cause injuries).



### **AFTER THE CLEAN-UP EVENT: COMMUNICATE ONLINE**

Photos showing the result of clean ups, with the weigh of the waste collected in a limited period of time is a powerful way to raise public awareness about the issue of litter.

Post any of your pictures online on social media to reflect your engagement on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter and encourage others to take action using: [#worldoceandsay](#) [#makewaves](#) and tagging [@theseacleaners](#) and [@PlaneteNAUSICAA](#).

# WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION NOW?

Every year, between **9 and 12 million tonnes** of plastic waste is tipped into the ocean.

**AROUND  
17 TONNES  
EVERY  
MINUTE.**

## WHERE FROM?

**80% of this marine pollution** comes from the land, mainly by way of rivers. In fact just ten rivers – in Asia, Africa and South America – transport 60% of the total volume of plastic debris.

## WHY?

Plastic pollution is a relatively recent phenomenon and directly related to the increase in the global production of plastic materials since the 1950s.

Since 1990, plastic production has risen by 4.5% each year and is projected to have doubled by 2040. Global consumption of plastic has tripled in the last 25 years and is **200 times greater than in 1950.**

## HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Sadly it is here to stay: plastics take on average **450 years to decompose** in the ocean. And they do not disintegrate completely; they slowly break down into nano-waste, invisible to the naked eye, and are absorbed by the micro-organisms in the ocean which form the beginning of the marine food chain. A significant proportion of the plastic found in the North Pacific gyres dates from the 1970s. It is therefore essential to remove plastic from the oceans before it disperses and begins to disintegrate.



## WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

**100,000 marine mammals and 1 million marine birds die each year** as a result of suffocating on plastic objects or ingesting micro-particles.

The effects on human health can be irreversible, including sterility, hormonal imbalances, growth problems.

Plastic pollution also adversely impacts local economies, notably their tourism and fishing industries.

## AND TOMORROW?

Without major action, marine plastic pollution is projected **to triple by 2040**, threatening biodiversity, the ocean's capacity to regulate the climate and provide enough oxygen, and the health and economic wellbeing of human communities.

The quantity of plastic ocean waste is projected to increase to 29 million tonnes per year – the equivalent of **50kg for every metre of coastline in the world**. And by 2050, the oceans will contain the same quantity of plastic as of fish.

Sources :

(\*)

[https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2020/07/breakingtheplasticwave\\_report.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2020/07/breakingtheplasticwave_report.pdf)



# WHAT CAN I DO ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS?



1

Boycott single-use plastic



2

Join the reusable revolution



3

Think about airtight lunchbox and reusable bamboo cutlery



4

Reduce the number of cosmetics and cleaning products



5

Bring your own snacks



6

Choose ice cream in cones not cups



7

Buy local and demand plastic-free packaging



8

Never go out without your reusable cloth shopping bag



9

Prefer beverages in reusable water bottles, glass bottles, cans or tap water



10

Buy second hand instead of new



11

Rent rather than buy



12

Choose products made from recycled materials