

# SHARE THESE: WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DEBRIS?

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- **Fact:** Marine debris is found all over the globe, often times thousands of miles from its origin. Trash has been documented from the ocean surface to the seafloor and even in the Arctic Ice
- **Trivia:** In 2013, International Coastal Cleanup volunteers found enough cigarette butts that when stacked end to end would be as tall as 133 empire state buildings! Can you guess how many cigarette butts were collected?
  - **Answer:** 2,043,470 butts
- **True or false?** The foam material used to keep our coffee hot and smoothies cold is actually a type of plastic.
  - **Answer:** True. This type of plastic is called polystyrene and is used to make everything from insulation and docks to egg cartons and coffee cups.
- **Trivia:** In 2013 International Coastal Cleanup volunteers found enough of this item to carpet 3 football fields. Can you guess this item?
  - **Answer:** Plastic bottle caps. In 2013 volunteers collected 847,972 plastic bottle caps. Bottle caps can be recycled with their bottle in many communities across the United States. Check your community's recycling policy and if appropriate, keep your top on.
- **True or False?** Plastic bags such as grocery bags, bread bags and dry cleaning bags are not recyclable.
  - **Answer:** False. Although these bags may be difficult to recycle in curbside collection, many grocery stores have receptacles at their entrance to recycle these types of plastic bags. Recycled bags are made into new bags and outdoor decking products. However, try to have a greater impact on marine debris reduction by utilizing reusable shopping and dry cleaning bags.
- **Trivia:** One of the most common items found during the International Coastal Cleanup are plastic beverage bottles. Guess how many sodas each Super Bowl XLVIII attendee could consume based on the amount of plastic bottles collected.
  - **Answer:** Volunteers collected 940,170 plastic beverage bottles. That's enough beverage bottles to give every fan attending the Super Bowl 11 sodas.
- **True or False?** The "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" is an expanse of ocean void of life and littered with islands of floating trash.
  - **Answer:** False. The "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" is more like a trash soup, with debris suspended throughout the water column and floating at the surface. Much of this trash is small, weathered pieces of plastic. There are many species that live or migrate within and throughout this ever-shifting area at the center of the North Pacific Gyre.
- **Trivia:** During the 2013 International Coastal Cleanup, volunteers collected enough of one fishing-related item to stretch up and over Mount Everest 5 times. What item is this?
  - **Answer:** Fishing line. Did you know fishing line is actually recyclable? There are currently over 17,000 monofilament recycling bins at marinas, beach access points and boat ramps nationwide.
- **Fact:** Did you know it would take anywhere from \$122 million to \$489 million a year to clean just 1% of the 5 major ocean gyres around the world? (Source: NOAA)



Ocean Conservancy