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Trash Tote Overview Guide

How to Use the Trash Tote

The Trash Tote is meant to be used as an education tool on the issue of marine debris. Marine debris is defined as any humangenerated, solid material that is accidentally or intentionally left in a water environment. Since most marine debris is single-use plastics, it is important to educate others on how they can safely remove it from the environment and use less plastics overall. The Trash Tote was made to be an easy to use and transport educational tool providing information on the issue of marine debris to people participating in a beach cleanup, outreach event, or to supplement a formal lesson plan. The Trash Tote is broken up into three sections: information on marine debris, cleanup supplies, and simple solutions.

Information on Marine Debris

Examples of commonly found marine debris items and microplastics are included so people can see these items up close. These items can be passed around or placed on a table. The microplastics can also be placed under a microscope for better viewing. Information cards on the issue as well as signs are included and can be placed on a table at an outreach event or be incorporated into a lesson on the issue of marine debris.

- Jar of commonly found marine debris
- Microplastic examples
 - microfragments
 - microfibers
 - nurdles
 - pre-production pellets
 - microbeads
 - microfoams
- Information Cards (9)
 - · images of microplastics
 - · graphs of marine debris in the Great Lakes
 - simple steps to reduce marine debris
- Signs
 - · cigarette sign
 - bag sign
 - straw sign
 - · bottle sign
 - marine debris information sign
 - marine debris impact sign











Cleanup Supplies

A handful of cleaning supplies are included with information on how to safely conduct a beach or neighborhood cleanup. Cleanups are a great way to reduce the amount of marine debris found in the natural environment.

- · Cleanup kit
 - bags
 - gloves
 - tongs
 - sharps container, to be used to dispose of sharp items
 - · safety sheets

Simple Solutions

As a society, we must make an effort to switch toward reusable alternatives and lessen our dependence on single-use, throwaway items. Some reusable alternatives are provided. Feel free to add other reusable alternatives to your kit. Smoking items were also included, as cigarettes are the number one item found on beach cleanups. It is important to let smokers know that the filter is made of plastic fibers and that cigarette butts should be disposed of in a receptacle and not on the ground or in the water.

- Reusable alternatives
 - water bottle
 - grocery bag
 - sandwich bag
 - · tupperware container
 - lunch bag
 - utensil kit
 - straws
- Smoking items
 - cup holder ash tray
 - pocket ash tray

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