

Marine Litter Image Reel

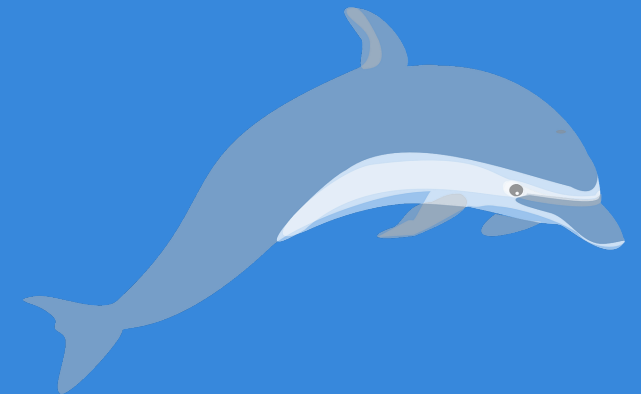
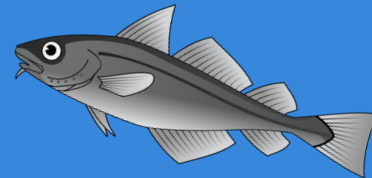
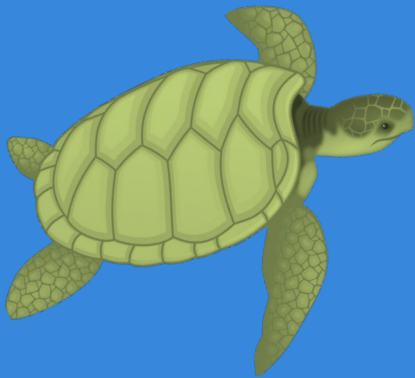
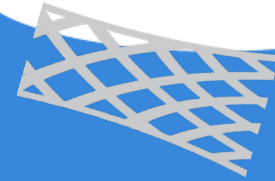
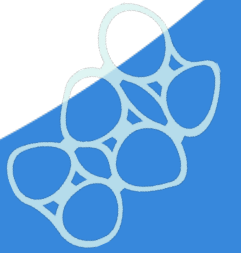




Litter reaches the ocean in a number of ways: it's washed in from our rivers, is left on our beaches, or is cast overboard from boats.

Marine life and marine litter

How does litter harm wildlife?





Marine life

Litter items can cause harm to all sorts of marine life, from tiny plankton to whales. Ingestion of litter, particularly plastic, is very problematic for marine life who are unable to digest it.



Marine life

Animals can become entangled in litter, causing injury, reduced mobility and even death.



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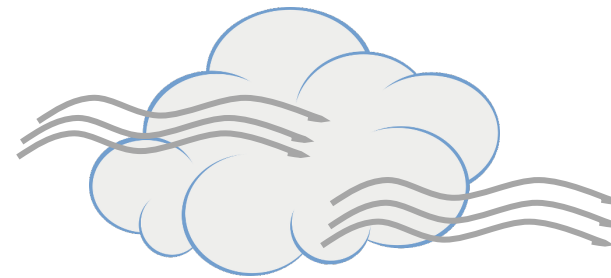
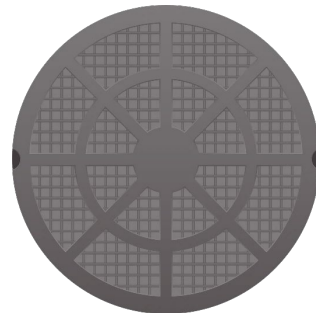
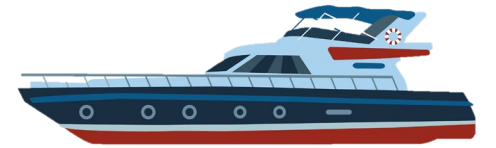
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Microplastic pollution

Microplastics are a serious environmental issue. They are plastics that have broken up into pieces smaller than 5mm, as well as pieces that enter the environment this size like microfibres or plastic nurdles, which are the small plastic pellets used in the production of plastic products.

Sources

How does litter travel to the ocean?





Marine litter sources

Inland sources of litter can include intentional and accidental littering, items flushed down toilets, sinks and drains, windblown litter from bins and landfill, and litter carried by rainwater into drains rivers and eventually the sea.



Marine litter sources

Litter is also a problem at sea, with sources like fishing, sailing, speed boats, commercial ships and container spills causing litter pollution.



Litter timeline

Litter in the ocean takes longer to degrade than litter on land, but will eventually start to break up due to wave action, currents, saltwater and sunlight.



Litter timeline

Degradation time varies greatly from 1–450 years depending on the properties of the litter.



Litter surveys

Litter surveys are not only important for clearing rubbish, but also for gathering data on the types of litter polluting our environment.



Litter surveys

We all need to do our bit to reduce litter in the environment. By rethinking how we shop and what we use in our daily lives, we can all make a difference.



Litter surveys

Refusing unnecessary plastic and other materials, reducing the amount of products we consume, and repairing rather than replacing are all important actions we can take.