

# Beach Litter ID Guide



## Sewage-Related Debris (SRD)



**Tampon applicator**  
Often white but found in different colours.



**Condoms and rings**  
Can be confused with rubber bands.



**Sanitary towels**  
Usually have round corners.



**Wet wipes**  
Usually have square corners.



**Cotton bud sticks**  
Notches on both ends distinguish these from lolly sticks.



## Fishing litter



**Fishing nets**  
Various types and sizes but you may find just small fragments, usually green.



**String or cord**  
Less than 1cm in diameter.



**Rope**  
Greater than 1cm in diameter. Often tangled up or in small pieces.



**Plastic fish boxes**  
Please record any identifying marks, such as the fishery company name or country.



**Polystyrene fish boxes**  
Please record any identifying marks, such as the fishery company name.



**Lobster or crab pots**  
These can be wood or metal.



**Lobster or crab pot tops**  
These can be plastic, metal or wood.



**Lobster and cod tags**  
Please record any markings or numbers.



**Fishing line (anglers)**  
Often tangled up or in small pieces.



**Oil drum**  
May come from fishing or shipping.

## Want to stop litter for good?

Join the Marine Conservation Society and support our work. We want safe, clean seas for people and for wildlife, and we can't achieve this without your help. Find out more:

# Beach Litter ID Guide

This guide will help you identify the more confusing and unusual items you might find on your beach clean.

## Helpful tips for your Beachwatch litter survey:

- ☑ Decide what material the litter is made of first - this will help you find it on the survey sheet
- ☑ Count everything, '100s' or 'lots' can't be used
- ☑ Found something really weird? Describe it on your survey form and if possible send us a photo



**Pure-Pak®**  
These are different to Tetra packs as they don't contain foil e.g. Tropicana cartons.



**Tetra packs®**  
These are typically drinks containers consisting of card, plastic and foil.



**Lightweight gloves**  
Like those used for washing up.



**Heavy duty gloves**  
Like those used for gardening, often from shipping.



**Balloons and balloon pieces**  
Please record any logos on the survey form. You may just come across the string and knot of the balloon.



**Disposable BBQs**  
You may just find the metal grill. Take care as it may still be hot!



**Tyres (with holes)**  
May have rope attached, often used on fishing boats.



**Tyres**  
Whole tyres without holes have usually been fly-tipped.



**Shotgun cartridges**



**Plastic pellets**  
Pellets are about 5mm wide and usually white, although they can be other colours. Please record as present or absent.



**Foreign containers**  
With foreign writing usually from fishing vessels and ships.



**Strapping band**  
These are used to tie up shipping cargo.



**Distress flares**  
Please record but do not touch. Please call the coastguard to collect.



**Lightsticks (two types)**  
Hooked or with a hole from divers, or clip on from long line fishing.



**Lolly stick**  
This has smooth ends without notches as compared to cotton bud sticks (see overleaf).



**4/6 pack yoke**  
Plastic binding for drink cans.



[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

[beachwatch@mcsuk.org](mailto:beachwatch@mcsuk.org)

Beachwatch direct: 01989 567807