

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.



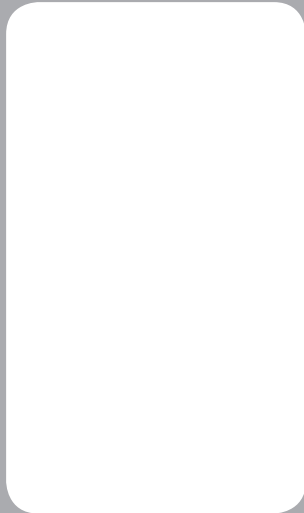
Wet wipes

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.



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