THE MOST DANGEROUS SPECIES OF OUR COASTS AND LAGOONS

The plastic demijohn
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: can cause serious, even fatal intestinal blockages in marine animals if swallowed.
Average lifespan: 400 to 600 years.

The battery
Origin: streets, streams and boats.
Behaviour: discharges liquids that are highly toxic for marine animals and plants.
Average lifespan: more than 1000 years.

The condom
Origin: toilets, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: causes serious digestive problems in animals that swallow it.
Average lifespan: 30 years.

The carton
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: damages and smothers organisms growing on the sea bed.
Average lifespan: 25 to 50 years.

The paper bag
Origin: beaches and boats.
Behaviour: causes digestive problems among certain sea creatures if eaten.
Average lifespan: 4 weeks.

The tin can
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: causes cuts among swimmers and damages and smothers marine life growing on the sea floor.
Average lifespan: 200 to 500 years.

The plastic bottle
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: can cause fatal intestinal blockages in marine animals that swallow it.
Average lifespan: 300 to 500 years.

The cigarette butt
Origin: toilets, streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: causes serious digestive problems for marine animals if swallowed.
Average lifespan: 10 years.

The plastic ring
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: entangles marine organisms, causing serious injuries or death by asphyxiation.
Average lifespan: 450 years.

Diesel and engine oil
Origin: boats.
Behaviour: very toxic, destroys marine habitats (seagrass, mangroves, corals, etc.) and the small animals and plants living there.
Average lifespan: depends on the amount discharged.

The plastic bag
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: often mistaken for a jellyfish (the favourite food of turtles), it causes severe, potentially fatal intestinal blockages in marine animals if eaten.
Average lifespan: 35 to 60 years.

The bottle cap
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: causes serious digestive problems for marine animals if swallowed.
Average lifespan: 300 years.

The food wrapper
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: larger specimens smother organisms growing on the sea bed; smaller specimens cause serious digestive problems among marine animals if swallowed.
Average lifespan: 20 to 30 years.

Aluminium foil
Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats
Behaviour: damages and smothers organisms growing on the sea bed.
Average lifespan: 5 years.

The glass bottle
Origin : streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: causes cuts and serious injuries among swimmers.
Average lifespan: more than 1000 years.

The aluminium foil plate
Origin: streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: damages and smothers organisms growing on the sea bed.
Average lifespan: 10 years.

The sanitary pad
Origin: toilets, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: similar to the disposable nappy – blocks the intestines, sometimes killing marine animals that swallow them.
Average lifespan: 25 years.

Every day, around the world, 8 million tonnes of waste end up in our oceans — all as a result of human actions. All this rubbish comes from toilets, streets, streams and beaches; some is thrown directly into the sea. It destroys marine life. You can prevent this destruction by always throwing your rubbish into a rubbish bin or an appropriate place.

THINK BEFORE YOU THROW — PROTECT MARINE LIFE!

SPC Secretariat of the Pacific Community

From an original poster created by **SMALL** *for the Generalitat de Catalunya*

From an original poster created by **SKALA**
for the Generalitat de Catalunya

SPC
Secretariat
of the Pacific
Community

ATTENTION!

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SPECIES THREATEN OUR COASTS AND LAGOONS!

The food wrapper

Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: larger specimens smother organisms growing on the sea bed; smaller specimens cause serious digestive problems among marine animals if swallowed.
Average lifespan: 20 to 30 years.

SOLID WASTE IN THE SEA IS A MENACE

Every day, around the world, 8 million tonnes of waste end up in our oceans — all as a result of human actions. This is a serious problem that we must start facing NOW. Non-biodegradable rubbish in the sea has an extremely negative impact on marine creatures, who can die from swallowing it or becoming entangled. Whole ecosystems can deteriorate as a result of sea-floor abrasion. Rubbish also has a negative effect on tourism, causing economic losses. It damages boats and reduces fishing potential. Cleaning up the mess and raising awareness cost us precious time, energy and money. But we CAN improve this situation —
IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER, IT'S SIMPLE!

The plastic ring

Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: entangles marine organisms, causing serious injuries or death by asphyxiation.
Average lifespan: 450 years.

HOW CAN WE STOP WASTE FROM REACHING THE SEA?

At home and on the street:

- Don't throw non biodegradable objects or materials down the toilet, in the street or into streams; most of it will end up in the sea.
- Buy products with biodegradable packaging.
- Reuse plastic bags or use cloth ones.
- Don't throw your cigarette butts on the ground.

On the beach or on the boat:

- Don't throw paper or cigarette butts in the sand or into the sea.
- Take your waste home and throw it into a rubbish bin or other designated receptacle.
- If you are on a boat, watch out for fuel or oil leaks.
- Don't throw your rubbish and cigarette butts off the side of the boat.

The plastic bag

Origin: streets, streams, beaches and boats.
Behaviour: often mistaken for a jellyfish (the favourite food of turtles), it causes severe, potentially fatal intestinal blockages in marine animals if eaten.
Average lifespan: 35 to 60 years.

HOW DOES SO MUCH WASTE END UP IN THE SEA?

Rubbish that floats on the surface of the sea comes from many sources:

From the house:

As strange as it seems, a lot of non-recyclable materials that get flushed down the toilet (condoms, pads, packaging, etc.) end up causing serious damage to marine life.

From the beach:

Everything we leave behind on the beach ends up in the sea. Please remember that the sea is a living, dynamic ecosystem that suffers the consequences of our carelessness. Bear in mind also that much of the waste floating in the sea ends up back on the beach. So, if we don't stop generating all this rubbish, our beaches will end up looking like rubbish tips.

From streets and streams:

Everything we throw on our streets or in our streams ends up in the sea, carried by rain and wind.

From boats:

Some sailors are not always very civilised: they throw their trash over the side and wash their fuel and oil tanks in the sea.

Uncontrolled dumping.

Businesses that dump waste inappropriately are fined. But it seems that even this does not stop some of them from causing pollution.