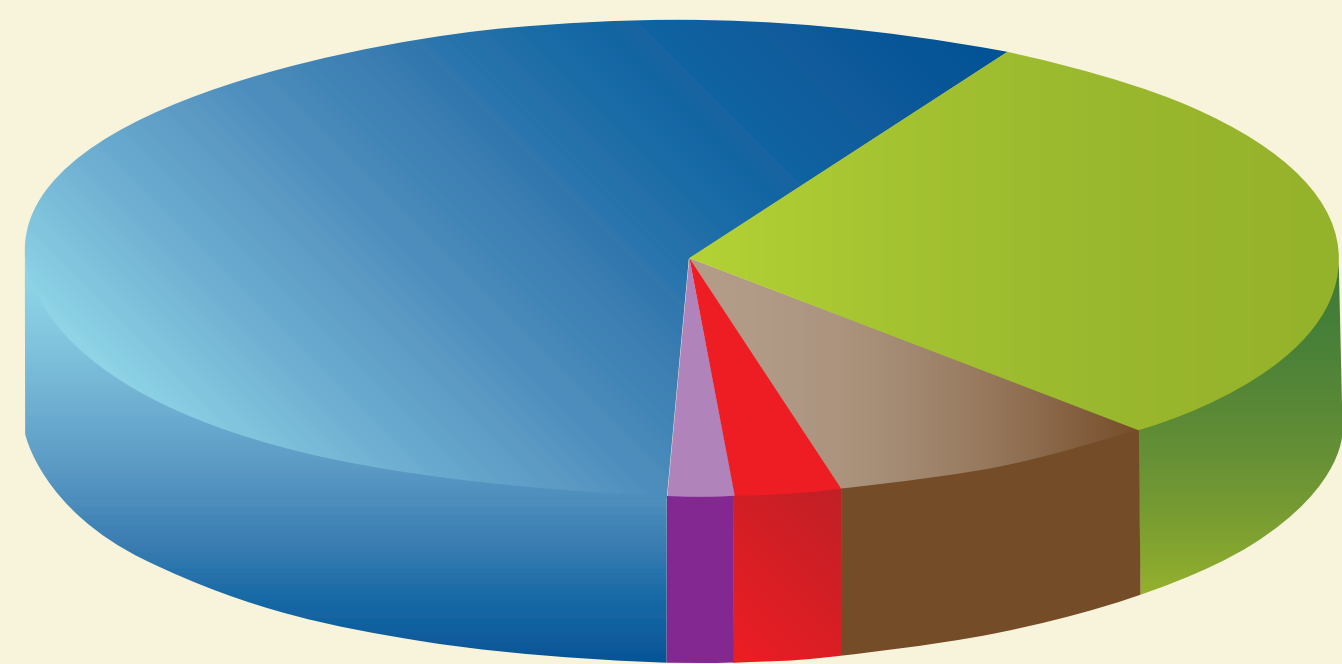


# Marine debris is everyone's problem

## Worldwide Sources of Marine Debris









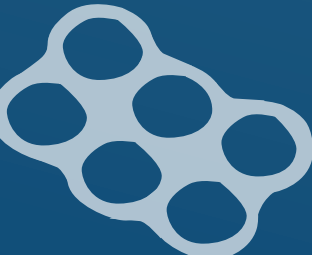




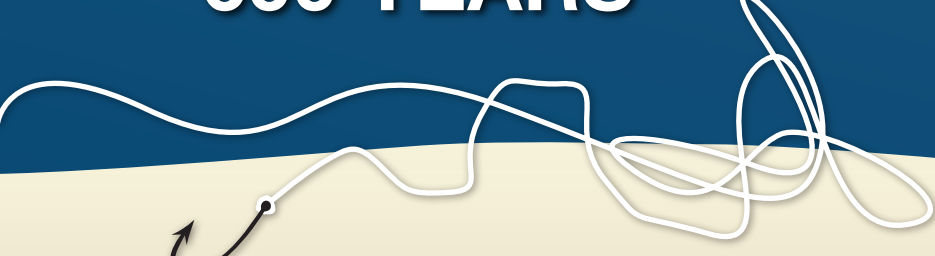
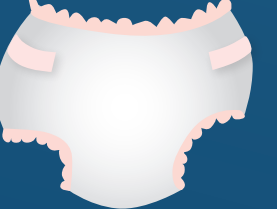



- 64% Shoreline & Recreational Activities
- 25% Smoking-related Activities
- 8% Ocean/Waterway Activities
- 2% Dumping Activities
- 1% Medical/Personal Hygiene

## Top 10 Marine Debris Items

Cigarettes & cigarette filters, plastic bags, food wrappers and containers, caps and lids, plastic beverage bottles, eating utensils, glass beverage bottles, beverage cans, straws and stirrers, paper bags

## How long do items remain in the environment?

 Paper Towel 2-4 WEEKS	 Newspaper 6 WEEKS	 Cotton Rope 1-5 MONTHS	 Cotton Shirt 1-5 MONTHS
 Apple Core 2 MONTHS	 Cigarette Butt 1.5 to 10 YEARS	 Cardboard Box 2 MONTHS	 Waxed Milk Carton 3 MONTHS
 Plastic Beverage Holder 400 YEARS	 Styrofoam Cup 50 YEARS	 Aluminum Cans 200 YEARS	 Plastic Grocery Bag 1-20 YEARS
 Plastic Bottle 450 YEARS	 Monofilament Fishing Line 600 YEARS	 Disposable Diaper 450 YEARS	 Glass bottles UNDETERMINED

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines marine debris as any manmade object discarded, disposed of or abandoned that enters the coastal or marine environment. Each year, tons of plastic and other litter end up in our oceans, rivers, and beaches. The only way to truly manage the marine debris pollution issue is through prevention – help Woods Hole Sea Grant change behaviors that cause marine debris to enter the environment!  
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Find out more at [www.whoi.edu/seagrant](http://www.whoi.edu/seagrant)

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