



Dive Against Debris

Marine Debris Identification Guide



**A Resource for Scuba Divers Completing
Dive Against Debris Surveys**



Dive Against Debris

Marine Debris Identification Guide

Acknowledgements

Project AWARE Foundation thanks Seba Sheavly for her invaluable input into the creation of the Dive Against Debris program. For over twenty years Seba has been a leading figure in the battle against marine debris having edited or contributed to major marine debris reports from UNEP, UNESCO, GESAMP, US EPA, and the National Academy of Sciences. As principal of Sheavly Consultants she has provided advisory services to institutions including the European Commission, NOAA Marine Debris and the Ocean Conservancy.

Very sadly Seba passed away in June 2012 during the writing of Version 2.0 of the Dive Against Debris Survey Guide. Project AWARE hopes the Dive Against Debris program is seen as a fitting tribute to Seba, who worked tirelessly for a cleaner ocean.

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Dive Against Debris

Marine Debris Identification Guide

Project AWARE's Dive Against Debris program is a global survey of underwater rubbish in our ocean. Created by divers for divers, Dive Against Debris turns your underwater cleanup into a marine debris survey.

The **Dive Against Debris Marine Debris Identification Guide** provides a visual reference for divers reporting marine debris removed from underwater during Dive Against Debris surveys. This guide also contains many useful tips to help you accurately complete your Dive Against Debris Data Card.

To learn how to complete Dive Against Debris surveys please refer to the **Dive Against Debris Survey Guide**. The Survey Guide is required reading for anyone reporting underwater marine debris through Dive Against Debris.

Download all Dive Against Debris resources and upload your data here:

www.projectaware.org/DiveAgainstDebris

Divers around the world are taking action to protect our ocean and its wildlife from harmful marine debris through the Dive Against Debris program. Join the Project AWARE movement here:

www.projectaware.org



Dive Against Debris

Marine Debris Identification Guide

Fast Find Index

Marine debris items are grouped by their main material of construction, and then in alphabetical order.

PLASTIC MATERIALS

01. bags: grocery/retail (plastic)
02. bags: trash (plastic)
03. bait containers/packaging
04. balloons
05. balls
06. baskets, crates
07. beverage bottles: 2 liters or less (plastic)
08. beverage bottles: 2 liters or more (plastic)
09. bottles: bleach, cleaner
10. bottles: oil/lube
11. buckets, drums & jerrycans: 2 liters or more
12. buoys & floats (plastic & foamed)
13. caps & lids (plastic)
14. carpet (synthetic)
15. cigarette filters
16. cigarette lighters
17. cigar tips
18. containers: fast food, lunch boxes & similar
19. cotton bud sticks
20. cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons (plastic)
21. diapers/nappies
22. fishing: line
23. fishing: lures, rods/poles
24. fishing: nets & pieces of nets
25. fishing: traps & pots
26. foam insulation & packaging
27. food wrappers (plastic)
28. furnishings (plastic)
29. gloves (latex)
30. light sticks/cyalumes
31. mesh bags: fruit, vegetable, shellfish
32. pipes (plastic/PVC)
33. rope (plastic/nylon)
34. SCUBA & snorkel gear, masks, snorkels, fins
35. sheeting: tarpaulin, plastic sheets, palette wrap
36. six-pack rings, ring carriers
37. strapping bands (plastic)
38. straws, stirrers
39. syringes (plastic)
40. tampon applicators
41. tobacco packaging & wrappers
42. toothbrushes
43. plastic fragments

GLASS & CERAMIC MATERIALS

44. beverage bottles (glass)
45. buoys (glass)
46. cups, plates, tableware, dishes (glass & ceramic)
47. fluorescent light tubes
48. jars: food (glass)
49. light globes: bulbs, etc
50. syringes (glass)
51. glass & ceramic fragments

Dive Against Debris Marine Debris Identification Guide

Fast Find Index continued

METAL MATERIALS

- 52. aerosol/spray cans
- 53. appliances: household
- 54. batteries: AA, AAA, C & D, 6V, 9V, etc
- 55. batteries: car or boat
- 56. beverage cans (aluminum)
- 57. cans: food, juice, other (tin)
- 58. caps & lids (metal)
- 59. cars & car parts
- 60. cups, plates, tableware, dishes (metal)
- 61. drums: 55 gallon
- 62. fishing: sinkers, lures, hooks
- 63. fishing: traps & pots
- 64. forks, knives, spoons (cutlery)
- 65. gas bottles/cylinder, drums: more than 4 liters
- 66. pipes & rebar
- 67. pull tabs: beverages
- 68. SCUBA weights
- 69. strapping bands (metal)
- 70. wire, wire mesh, barbed wire
- 71. wrappers (foil/metal)
- 72. metal fragments

RUBBER MATERIALS

- 73. condoms
- 74. gloves (rubber)
- 75. inner-tubes & rubber sheets
- 76. rubber bands
- 77. tires/tyres
- 78. rubber fragments

WOOD MATERIALS

- 79. fishing: traps & pots
- 80. furnishings (wood)
- 81. lumber (processed or cut/milled wood)
- 82. pallets
- 83. wood fragments

CLOTH MATERIALS

- 84. bags (burlap)
- 85. bags (cloth)
- 86. gloves (cloth)
- 87. rope & string (cloth)
- 88. towels, rags
- 89. cloth fragments

PAPER/CARDBOARD MATERIALS

- 90. bags (paper)
- 91. cardboard: packaging & cartons
- 92. paper: books, newspapers, magazines, etc
- 93. paper/cardboard fragments

MIXED MATERIALS

- 94. bricks, cinderblocks, chunks of cement
- 95. clothing
- 96. computer equipment & other electronic devices
- 97. fireworks
- 98. shoes, flip flops, sandals, tennis, etc
- 99. tampons
- 100. toys

Plastic Materials

Find **plastic** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.



01. bags: grocery/retail (plastic)



02. bags: trash (plastic)



03. bait containers/packaging



04. ballons



05. balls



06. baskets, crates



Dive Against Debris is a survey of underwater marine debris created for scuba divers

Plastic Materials



07. beverage bottles: 2 liters or less (plastic)



08. beverage bottles: 2 liters or more (plastic)



09. bottles: bleach, cleaner



10. bottles: oil/lube



11. buckets, drums & jerrycans: 2 liters or more



12. buoys & floats (plastic and foamed)

Plastic Materials



Only report debris found by divers underwater through Dive Against Debris



© Sheavly Consultants

13. caps & lids (plastic)



© Martin Child, Getty Images

14. carpet (synthetic)



© Ocean Conservancy

15. cigarette filters



© Sheavly Consultants

16. cigarette lighters



© Ocean Conservancy

17. cigar tips



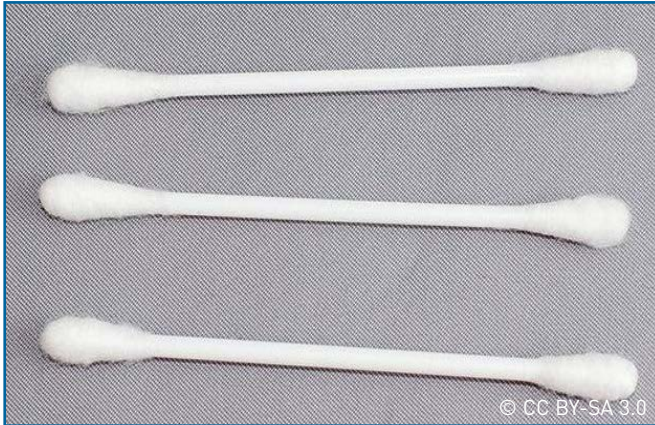
© Ocean Conservancy

18. containers: fast food, lunch boxes & similar



Can't find your debris item here?
List under "Other Debris Items" on the
Dive Against Debris Data Card

Plastic Materials



19. cotton bud sticks



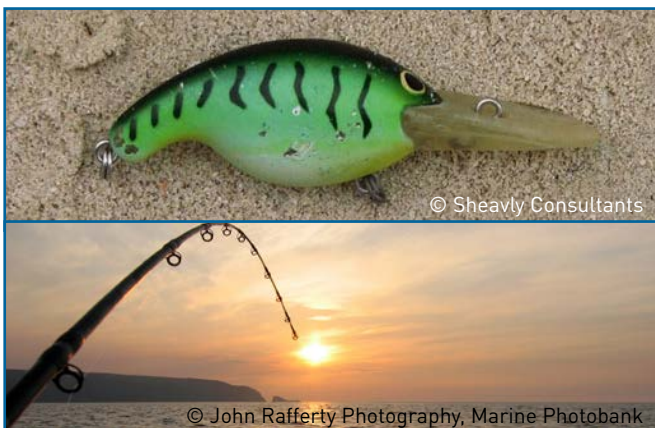
20. cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons
(plastic)



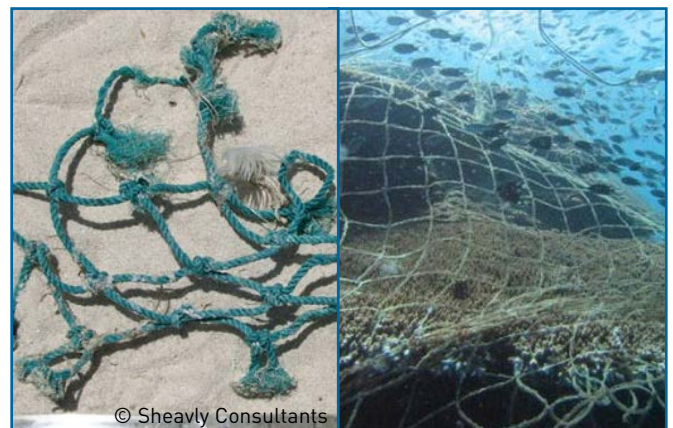
21. diapers/nappies



22. fishing: line



23. fishing: lures, rods/poles



24. fishing: nets & pieces of nets

Plastic Materials



Count each individual item as 1 on your Dive Against Debris Data Card, regardless of its size



© Ofir Avny, Marine Photobank

25. fishing: traps & pots



© Steve Gorton, Getty Images

© Steve Gorton, Getty Images

© Steve Gorton, Getty Images

26. foam insulation & packaging



© CC BY-SA 3.0

© CC BY-SA 3.0

27. food wrappers (plastic)



© Zac Allan CC BY-SA 3.0

28. furnishings (plastic)



© CC BY-SA 3.0

29. gloves (latex)



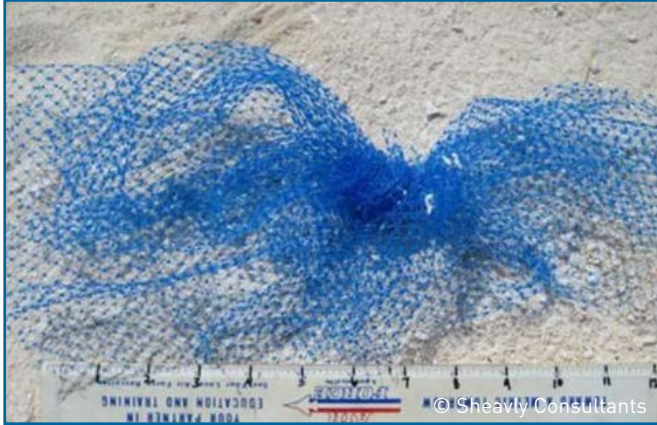
© Sheavly Consultants

30. light sticks/cyalumes



List miscellaneous pieces as "fragments"
- see the end of each material category
on the Dive Against Debris Data Card

Plastic Materials



31. mesh bags: fruit, vegetable, shellfish



32. pipes (plastic/PVC)



33. rope (plastic/nylon)



34. SCUBA & snorkel gear, masks, snorkels, fins



35. sheeting: tarpaulin, plastic sheets, palette wrap



36. six-pack rings, ring carriers

Plastic Materials

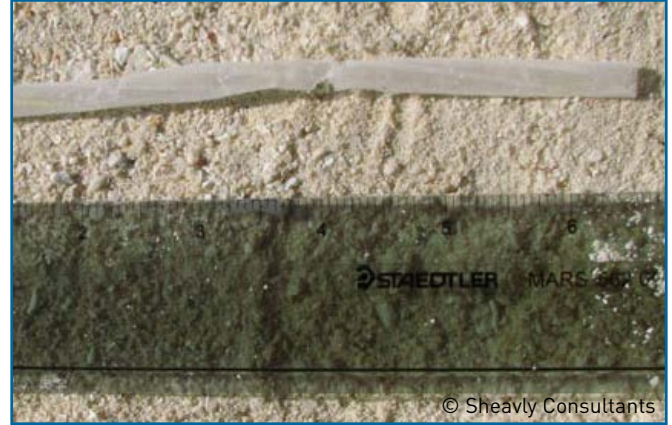


When reporting Number of Participants, only include divers collecting rubbish underwater in your total



© Quinn Packaging

37. strapping bands (plastic)



© Sheavly Consultants

38. straws, stirrers



© Ocean Conservancy

39. syringes (plastic)



© CC BY-SA 3.0

40. tampon applicators



© Ocean Conservancy

41. tobacco packaging & wrappers



© Sheavly Consultants

42. toothbrushes

Any unidentifiable piece of plastic that does not belong in the groups above

43. plastic fragments

Glass & Ceramic Materials

Find **glass & ceramic** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.



44. beverage bottles (glass)



45. buoys (glass)



46. cups, plates, tableware, dishes (glass & ceramic)



47. fluorescent light tubes



48. jars: food (glass)



49. light globes: bulbs, etc

Glass & Ceramic Materials



50. syringes (glass)

Any unidentifiable piece of glass & ceramic that does not belong in the groups above

51. glass & ceramic fragments

Too small to count?

Sometimes you may remove a large amount of similar small pieces of debris, for example a mound of plastic pellets dumped in the ocean or a hard plastic item that has disintegrated into many small pieces. In these cases there may be too many pieces to count, so how do you record this find?

The method for many small pieces (mostly smaller than 2.5 cm) is to place them on a tarpaulin out of the wind and sort them into roughly equal sized piles. Then count the number of pieces in one of your piles and multiply this by the number of piles to reach the total. Record these small pieces as "fragments" under the relevant material of construction.



Metal Materials

Find **metal** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.



© Sheavly Consultants

52. aerosol/spray cans



53. appliances: household



© CC BY-SA 3.0

54. batteries: AA, AAA, C & D, 6V, 9V, etc



© CC BY-SA 3.0

55. batteries: car or boat



© Ocean Conservancy

56. beverage cans (aluminium)



© Myke 2020, CC BY-SA 3.0

57. cans: food, juice, other (tin)

Metal Materials



Sorting and recording your debris happens quickly when everyone works together



© Mateusz Wi niewski CC BY-SA 3.0

58. caps & lids (metal)



© Getty Images

© CC BY-SA 3.0

59. cars & car parts



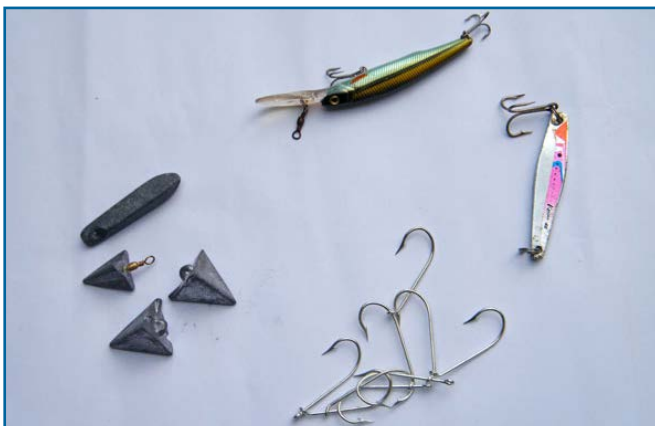
Maria Toutoudaki, Getty Images

60. cups, plates, tableware, dishes (metal)



© Ocean Conservancy

61. drums: 55 gallon



62. fishing: sinkers, lures, hooks



© Valerie Craig, Marine Photobank

63. fishing: traps & pots



Take lots of photos - your pictures help explain your data and tell the story of your action

Metal Materials



64. forks, knives, spoons (cutlery)



65. gas bottles/cylinder, drums: more than 4 liters



66. pipes & rebar



67. pull tabs: beverages



68. SCUBA weights



69. strapping bands (metal)

Metal Materials



70. wire, wire mesh, barbed wire



71. wrappers (foil/metal)

Any unidentifiable piece of metal that does not belong in the groups above

72. metal fragments



Before submitting data you will be asked to confirm the Dive Against Debris Surveyor Statement:

I have read the **Dive Against Debris Survey Guide** and the data I am reporting was collected underwater during one dive completed by single or multiple buddy teams. I understand I should not include data on rubbish collected on land or from the surface, and that data from repetitive dives should be reported through separate submissions.

Rubber Materials

Find **rubber** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.



73. condoms



74. gloves (rubber)



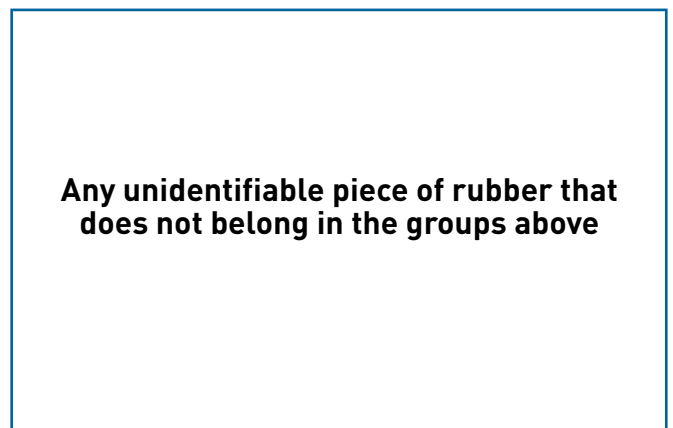
75. inner-tubes & rubber sheets



76. rubber bands



77. tires/tyres



78. rubber fragments

Wood Materials

Find **wood** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.



© Amy Uhrin, NOAA, Marine Photobank

79. fishing: traps & pots



© JP Greenwood/Getty Images

80. furnishings (wood)



© Sheavly Consultants

81. lumber (processed or cut/milled wood)



82. pallets

Any unidentifiable piece of wood that does not belong in the groups above

83. wood fragments

Find **cloth** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.

Cloth Materials



84. bags (burlap)



85. bags (cloth)



86. gloves (cloth)



87. rope & string (cloth) - note: rope from natural materials has a fibrous appearance



88. towels, rags

Any unidentifiable piece of cloth that does not belong in the groups above

89. cloth fragments

Paper/Cardboard Materials

Find **paper and cardboard** marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.



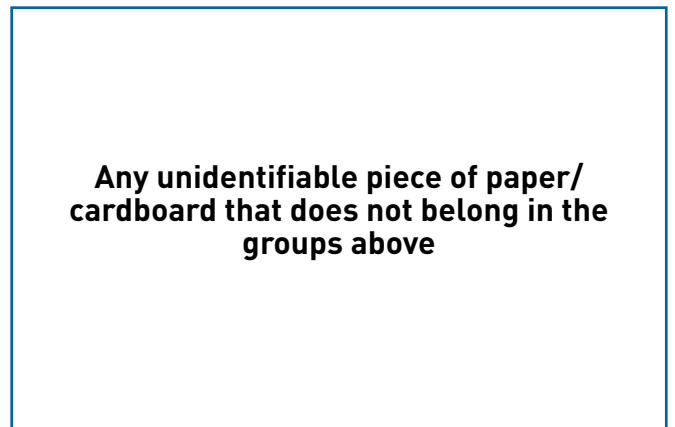
90. bags (paper)



91. cardboard: packaging & cartons



92. paper: books, newspapers, magazines, etc



93. paper/cardboard fragments



Survey Duration

Take care to properly record your Survey Duration as incorrect entries will devalue your findings.

- **Survey Duration is the average time spent by all buddy teams while underwater removing marine debris**
- **Record Survey Duration in minutes i.e. 45 minutes, 115 minutes**
- **Do not include time for surface swims and ascents/descents**
- **Do not include time for non-dive participants or for sorting and recording your debris**

See page 20 of the **Dive Against Debris Survey Guide** for examples on calculating Survey Duration.

Find **mixed** material marine debris items in this section. List each item as 1 on your Data Card.

If you cannot find an item listed here record it under **Other Items**.

Mixed Materials



© Hal Bergman, Getty Images

94. bricks, cinderblocks, chunks of cement



© NorwegianMarcus CC BY-SA 3.0

95. clothing



© Junichi Sugishita

96. computer equipment & other electronic devices



© Bluemoon Stock, Getty Images

97. fireworks



© Sheavly Consultants

98. shoes, flip flops, sandals, tennis, etc



© Getty Images

99. tampons

Mixed Materials



Dive Against Debris is a survey of underwater marine debris created for scuba divers



100. toys



Thanks for protecting our ocean planet!

Report your Dive Against Debris data here:

www.projectaware.org/DiveAgainstDebris

Send your comments and suggestions to:

DiveAgainstDebris@projectaware.org