

MIAMI BEACH RISING ABOVE

Coastal and Waterway Cleanup Tip Sheet

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO CLEAN UP OUR BEACHES AND WATERWAYS:

Volunteer cleanup events remove garbage from the beaches and other waterway systems and create a healthier environment for humans and wildlife.



WHAT TO PICK UP (AND WHY):

- Plastic Bags - Sea turtles love to eat jelly fish and they often mistake floating plastic bags for their favorite food.
- Cigarettes - It can take one cigarette 2- 10 years to biodegrade! That means it will either stay in the sand or water for a decade or be eaten by a marine animal, which is not good for their health.
- Small Plastics - Many seabirds cannot tell the difference between food and tiny pieces of plastic. The most problematic item consumed by seagulls is bottle caps.
- All Litter - from aluminum cans to plastic bottles to empty bags of chips, no one wants to go to the beach and see garbage in the sand or in the water.



Miami-Dade County cleans the beach everyday but small litter such as floatable plastics and cigarette butts can accumulate and are more difficult to remove.



WANT TO SPREAD THE WORD?

The City of Miami Beach is dedicated to keeping the environment clean and fit. Share your cleanup pics and stories with us by using the hashtag #keepmbclean .



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today!

ONCE YOU GET TO THE BEACH OR WATERWAY:

- Gather in groups of two to four (2-4) people.
- Each group should have one (1) garbage bag or bucket.
- Walk up and down the beach and pick up trash.
- Place plastic bags with trash on the east side of the wire mesh trash cans for pick up.

*It is recommended that each volunteer wear gloves throughout the clean up event.

*If garbage pickers are used, we recommend that older and more responsible volunteers use the tool since it is very sharp.

DO

- Place bags with recyclables next to a wire mesh can with a recycling wrap around it. This will help crews keep these items separate from trash.
- If you want your clean up to be a larger sponsored event, check out the City's Special Events page:
<http://secure.miamibeachfl.gov/specialevents/public/se/welcome.aspx>

- **STAY OUT OF THE DUNES!** - it is **ILLEGAL** to trespass on the dunes. They are protected by the State of Florida. Dune plants trap and stabilize sand, create sand reservoirs, minimize erosion, absorb wave energy, block storm surge, and protect coastal infrastructure and upland property.
- **THROW AWAY SEAWEED!** - Seaweed acts as a sand stabilizer and is a valuable source of nutrients for coastal flora and fauna. Instead, place it back in the water.
- **PICK UP HAZARDOUS ITEMS!** - For your safety, sharp, large, or hazardous items that may have washed up with the storm will be picked up by the County's beach cleaning crews using specialized equipment.
- **REMOVE CORAL OR SPONGES!** - Marine life is a part of our natural environment and they play a role by breaking down over time to help form the white, sandy beaches of tomorrow.
- **SET UP TABLES, CHAIRS, TENTS, etc!** - Setting up tables, chairs, tents, etc. for an event on the beach requires a special events permit. To avoid fines, no logos or materials should be distributed.

DON'T