



Shown here are some pictures of the brilliant work carried out by the students of *Doon Convent Primary School, Limerick*

on the theme of Global Citizenship Marine Environment!

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Look at this great up-cycled work that represents the negative effect of plastic on the environment!

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# And at these super interesting facts on the effects of cans and dental floss on the marine environment

## The Impact of Dental Floss on the marine Environment

By Lauren & Caoimhe



The great Pacific leather Patch is the world's largest collection of floating trash and the most poisonous hot bed between Hawaii and California and is often described as larger than Texas, even though it contains not so square feet of surface.

Dental floss is made of nylon or Teflon and isn't biodegradable because it doesn't break down it also causes serious deep and irreversible damage when flushed down a toilet.

### How do you dispose of Dental floss?

The best way to dispose of dental floss is to use a floss container. But any container should be well sealed, secure, and not be used for anything else. The floss can't be recycled, so the best way to dispose of it is to use a container that can be taken to a community recycling center.

### How bad is dental floss for the environment?

There is a real problem in the ocean. Like other plastics it can end up suffocating marine animals, or getting in the way of their stomachs when it gets stuck in their gills, causing serious health issues.

### Does dental floss biodegrade?

Regular dental floss is just a piece of nylon rolled up in a small plastic container. Unlike plastic, it does not take 500 to 1000 years to decompose, but only 50-80 years.

## How cans affect the environment

In 2012, approximately 38.2 billion aluminum beverage cans end up in the U.S. landfills. The equivalent of 121 cans for every American man, woman and child. Seeing great stacks of soda cans at the grocery market got me thinking about aluminum beverage cans and wondering about their environmental impact. I decided to look into it, and see what I found.

The most things to get down your toilet are: cotton buds, baby wipes, facial wipes, facial pads, tampons, pads, nappies, plasters, cigarettes, plasters, nappies, tampons, sanitary pads.

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By Grainne Ryan + Emily Kelly



Here is a - very effective -  
representation of a very  
angry octopus covered in  
marine litter

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Or look at this “before and after” (with and without litter) jellyfish!  
Much happier without all that litter!

Here are some  
great drawings  
of the  
underwater  
world!

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# Cotton Buds

Cotton bud sticks might look like lolly pop sticks but they are made of plastic and can last a very long time in the marine environment.

Plastic cotton buds stems are generally composed of polypropylene one of the most widely produced plastics.

Plastic cotton buds are among the thousands of sanitary products flushed down toilets everyday instead of being put in the bin.

Cotton buds are to be banned in England from April next year in a move campaigners have welcomed but warned will only scratch the surface of tackling damage that non-degradable waste is doing to the environment.

Cotton buds end up in the oceans it's a sad fact. We've probably all seen that heartbreaking image of a beautiful sea horse its tail curled around a cotton bud swimming off the west coast of Indonesia. It looks almost graceful twirled around its 'dancing partner' elegantly going about its day but this now iconic image is indicative of the sorry tale that's happening out at sea.

By  
Sheana and  
Aurora

... and more interesting facts on harmful materials for marine biodiversity, such as – the very commonly found in the oceans – cotton buds

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And to  
finish up:  
this is their  
brilliant  
Green Code!

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Well Done to all the  
students and staff of  
Doon Convent Primary  
School !!!

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All the best from the  
Green School Team 😊