

SOURCES of Marine Litter



Overflowing bins

Waste may be accidentally left behind at beaches. Plastics don't degrade and remain on our beaches, often mistaken as food by marine animals.

Waste spills out of bins and is carried away by wind or rain, eventually reaching the sea. This litter can harm seabirds, fish and many other marine creatures.

Litter left behind at beaches



Carried by wind or rivers

Nets, fishing lines and hooks can be lost in bad weather or discarded at sea. These can float in the water entangling and harming animals.

Litter like food packaging, balloons and plastic bags are often transported long distances by the wind and water (streams and rivers) to our coastline.

Lost or discarded fishing gear



Cargo spills

Sanitary waste such as wet wipes and cotton buds can pass through the wastewater treatment system and litter oceans.

Rogue waves and bad weather may cause shipping containers to fall overboard during transport. This results in long-lasting debris entering the water.

Sewage related litter



Microfibres from washing machines

Some industrial processes, like the manufacturing of plastics, can release microplastics into the sea. Waste that is transported or stored incorrectly can also leak and harm ocean life.

Washing synthetic clothes causes them to release microfibres. These are too small to be captured by the wastewater treatment system so end up in our seawater. They are ingested by marine life and accumulate on sea floor.

Industrial waste

