



Beach Cleanup Guide



INTRODUCTION

What is World Oceans Day?

World Oceans Day, a global celebration of our ocean, is celebrated annually every June 8th. In 2003, Prime Minister Hon. Philip Davis declared 8th-14th June National Ocean Protection Week in The Bahamas in recognition of World Oceans Day and to celebrate The Bahamas' 50th anniversary. The Proclamation highlighted The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF), Waterkeepers Bahamas, Waterkeepers Alliance, and partners who are working to protect our oceans and the need for immediate action to save our oceans.

Plastic pollution in the ocean has become a global problem for humans and marine life. Worldwide, many organizations care deeply about protecting our oceans. While focusing on World Oceans Day is important, much more help safeguarding and restoring the oceans is welcomed.

This guide will help organizations and groups plan and host a successful and impactful cleanup event. Removing one piece of plastic from the Ocean could save the life of an animal; every ounce helps!



Why are cleanups important?

- Beach cleanups help to raise awareness about the damage being done to our marine environment by pollution
- Help people take responsibility
- Reduce amount of plastic pollution that reaches the ocean or harms wildlife
- Brings the problem of pollution to the forefront of people's minds

How cleanups have an impact

- Unites your organization
- Helps the environment and removes pollution
- Protects wildlife by keeping their habitat free of plastic pollution
- Inspires community members to continue to make changes in their everyday lives to prevent pollution and help with solutions



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PRE-CLEANUP

Who, Where & When

Dedicate a cleanup coordinator as well as the committee members organizing the cleanup. Set roles for each committee member.

Choose an environment that is in need of a cleanup. Consider the safety of the location and determine which areas of the site the cleanup will take place in.

For some beaches, you may need a permit to state that you are allowed to host the event in a public area. It is a good idea to have your plan or a brief overview of what you are trying to do when reaching out to officials.

If you are unsure if you need permission to clean up the selected area, consult with the **Public Parks & Beaches Authority** at **(242) 604-3750** for more information.

Tips:

Collaborate! If you know of another corporate or civic groups hosting a similar event, consider hosting it together!

Decide whether to set a backup date in case there is inclement weather on the actual day of the cleanup.

Do Your Research

Scout your site in advance to get a better idea of how much litter your team members will be exposed to. You may want to document the amount of pollution to compare the site before and after the cleanup. You can share photos of the work done on your organization's social media pages.

It is worth considering how your team members will get to the cleanup site (e.g. - parking spaces, bus stops etc.) and if there are restrooms nearby.

Assign a location that team members will meet the day of the cleanup. This central location can serve as the initial meeting place and potentially the location where items are brought for recycling or proper disposal.

Get Ready!

Once you have an idea of the number of people attending the cleanup, start to create work teams and site captains. Nobody should work alone. All group members should work in teams of two or more. Site captains should be assigned to coordinate teams on the day of the cleanup. Make sure you know who the site captains are and that they each know what their responsibilities are.

Now that you know the approximate amount of people attending, you need to calculate how much material you will need and start collecting it. Most of the materials needed can be found at local stores.

Provide site captains and cleanup crews with the following:

- **Work/gardening gloves** or rubber dishwashing gloves. *(that can ideally be reused)*

- **Buckets** *(for plastic-free garbage collection).*

- **Tools** such as rakes, shovels and/or litter poles.

- **Datasheets** *(to record all litter found by type and number)* which can be provided to regional and international bodies for analysis *(and highlighted for any press outreach)*

- Encourage everyone to bring **snacks and water** in **reusable bottles**

- Organize a **water re-fill station** with at least 1 person running it.

- Sunscreen, **first aid kits** including hand sanitizer.

- Set up **deposit bins** at the central meeting place and be sure to make arrangements for proper disposal.

Promote Your Event

Promote your cleanup within your organization. Create awareness that will increase people's interest in being a part of the cleanup. If allowed, consider asking your participants to invite their families and friends to assist.

You can also incorporate side activities like educational games, contests and prizes to make it both fun and rewarding.



DAY OF THE CLEANUP

On the day of the cleanup, get there early to set up. Ask all site captains to come early as well so they can familiarize themselves with their sites and can guide volunteers when they arrive.

Provide a sign-in sheet for volunteers at the central meeting place on the day of the cleanup. Project supervisors can introduce the site captains, assign cleanup sections with starting posits, list emergency contacts, mention any particular hazards and help site captains form cleanup teams.

Hazards should be noted during training – all volunteers should wear gloves at all times and be cautioned about picking up glass and other hazardous materials.

TIP:

Hazards should be also noted during training –all volunteers should wear gloves at all times and volunteers should be cautioned about picking up glass and other hazardous material.

Documenting the Event

Take pictures and videos with your phone and ask your cleanup team to do the same. Images can be shared internally and on your organization's social media pages.

TIP:

*Be sure to use the hashtags **#breef242** **#worldoceanday** and our team will help to maximize your reach by highlighting your great work across our many platforms!*

Safety

Let's keep everyone safe and happy!

It is useful to ask volunteers to wear gloves when participating in a cleanup or for the organizer to provide them, especially when picking up glass and tin. It is also prudent to remind the team members to bring a hat, sunscreen and water.

As mentioned earlier, the organizer needs to make volunteers aware of potential physical dangers. If the cleanup area is known for dangerous activity or rough terrain, perhaps ask for a police presence and/or first-aid certified volunteers to be at the cleanup.

Properly Dispose of the Litter

There are several options of what you can do with the litter that you have collected. Try and be creative, this is only a guide so use your team's full imagination!

Recycle

Get a team of volunteers to separate the litter. Once sorted, any glass or soda cans can be taken to the local recycling center and disposed of responsibly.

Cans 4 Kids Bahamas –(242)818-2267

Collection

The **Department of Environmental Health** is typically willing to pick up litter collected at beach cleanups, however, they need to be asked in advance to collect it on a certain day and time. They can be contacted at **(242)322-8037**.

There are also private waste management companies that can be contracted to supply a dumpster on the day of your cleanup and properly dispose of it.

Brand Challenge

- An innovative way to create accountability is to initiate inter-brand challenges.
- After the cleanup is complete, look at all of the litter collected and see if any items are branded (e.g. beverage companies or items found at local stores)
- From this information, a social media campaign can be designed to ask these brands what they are doing about plastic pollution and spark internal conversations.
- The purpose of this challenge is to get corporations to take responsibility for their products.





POST-CLEANUP

Celebrate!

Finish the cleanup and celebrate! Coming together at the end of the day is important. Cleanup volunteers can reconvene at the central meeting site by the assigned time for refreshments and rewards to help celebrate their accomplishments and get reinvigorated for a future cleanup.

TIP:

If funds are available, it's always nice to give people a memento for their time and effort – whether that is an inexpensive button, a photo, reusable bag, or a t-shirt.

Analyze the Results!

Document your work by taking a photo of the newly cleaned area! You will eventually compare your before and after photos and show volunteers their impact.

Organize collected data and create reports, graphs and images to share on social media. Tell people about the amount collected. After all, sharing information is essential for raising awareness!

Set up a meeting with the captains and volunteers to thank them for the important role they played in a successful event.

CONCLUSION

It is important to remember that cleanups are just one part of the solution. In order to achieve a true change we must stop the use of unnecessary single-use plastic items and packaging by opting for sustainable alternatives.

It is going to take all of us working together across private and public sectors along with the general public to see the change that's needed to stop coastal and marine pollution for good.

By using this guide, you have proven that you take this problem serious and are ready to be a part of solution! the

HOW BREEF CAN HELP!

At BREEF our mission is to promote the conservation of the Bahamian marine environment that sustains our way of life. Our team understands that we cannot *go it alone* on this journey and this guide was created to help organizations understand how they can do their part to be responsible corporatecitizens.

To further help your cleanup be a success, BREEF is happy to support your efforts by coming to speak at your event on the impact that pollution and other threats have on our Bahamian marine environment. Our team will also discuss the history of World Oceans Day and the deeper importance of initiatives such as beach cleanups, helping to reinforce the excitement the organizers have driven!

The goal of this brief presentation is to serve as not only motivation on the day-of, but as inspiration for those present to make small changes throughout their daily lives that will have a big impact!

If this is something your organization would be interested in, please **contact us today** to arrange!



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US



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EMAIL US

breef@breef.org

GIVE US A CALL

(242)327-9000

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.breef.org

FOLLOW US!

@

[breef242](#)

P.O. Box CB-11005
Unit #11, Caves Professional Center
West Bay St. & Blake Road
N.P., The Bahamas

APPENDIX

COORDINATOR

OCEAN TRASH DATA FORM



DEAR CLEANUP COORDINATOR:

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and valuable time spent for this important cause! We appreciate your commitment and passion for trash free seas.

Before you complete this form, compile all data from the Volunteer Ocean Trash Data Form. For each item of trash, add the total number of pieces and enter this number in the "Total" box on the back of this data form. Numbers are the only valid form of data, so please DO NOT use words or check marks in the boxes next to ocean trash items.

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

CLEANUP SITE DESCRIPTION

Type of Environment (choose one):

- ☐ Saltwater (Ocean/Bay/Estuary)
☐ Freshwater (River/Stream/Lake)
☐ Inland (No Water Body Present)

Mode of Data Collection (choose one):

- ☐ Land (beach, shoreline or inland)
☐ Underwater
☐ Watercraft (powerboat, sailboat, kayak or canoe)

CLEANUP SITE LOCATION

Cleanup Site Name (beach, park, etc.): _____

State or Province: _____ Zone or County: _____

Country: _____ Nearest Crossroad/Landmark: _____

CLEANUP SUMMARY

Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____ Total Number of Volunteers at this site: Adults: _____ Children: _____

Total Weight of Trash Collected: _____ lbs. or _____ kgs. Total Number of Trash Bags Filled: _____

Estimated Distance Cleaned: 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 2 3 4 5 (circle one) Other: _____

Distance Measured In: _____ Miles or Kilometers (circle one)

MOST UNUSUAL ITEM(S) COLLECTED:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Please return this form along with all Data Forms to your State/Country Coordinator.



State/Country Coordinators: Please submit Summary Data into the online Data Collection and Reporting Tool at www.coastalcleanupdata.org.



If you are unable to contact your State or Country Coordinator, please mail or email this form to:

Ocean Conservancy
Attn: International Coastal Cleanup
1300 19th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

cleanup@oceanconservancy.org
www.oceanconservancy.org/cleanup

TRASH COLLECTED

Citizen scientist: Record the total number of items picked up by volunteers at the Cleanup site. The data you record are important for creating solutions for Trash Free Seas.®

Please DO NOT use words or check marks.
Only **numbers** are useful data.

TOTAL #



28

EXAMPLE

Plastic Bags

TOTAL #



MOST LIKELY TO FIND ITEMS

- Cigarette Butts
- Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)
- Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic)
- Take Out/Away Containers (Foam)
- Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- Bottle Caps (Metal)
- Lids (Plastic)
- Straws/Stirrers
- Forks, Knives, Spoons

TOTAL #



FISHING GEAR:

- Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps
- Fishing Net & Pieces
- Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)
- Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)

TOTAL #



OTHER TRASH:

- Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)
- Balloons
- Cigar Tips
- Cigarette Lighters
- Construction Materials
- Fireworks
- Tires



TOTAL #



PACKAGING MATERIALS:

- Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- Beverage Cans
- Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- Other Plastic Bags
- Paper Bags
- Cups & Plates (Paper)
- Cups & Plates (Plastic)
- Cups & Plates (Foam)
- 6-Pack Holders
- Other Plastic/Foam Packaging
- Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)
- Strapping Bands
- Tobacco Packaging/Wrap

TOTAL #



PERSONAL HYGIENE:

- Condoms
- Diapers
- Syringes
- Tampons/Tampon Applicators

ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN:

1.
2.
3.

TOTAL #



TOTAL #



TINY TRASH LESS THAN 2.5CM:

- Foam Pieces
- Glass Pieces
- Plastic Pieces

DEAD/INJURED ANIMAL

STATUS

ENTANGLED

TYPE OF ENTANGLEMENT ITEM

	Dead or Injured	Yes or No	
	Dead or Injured	Yes or No	
	Dead or Injured	Yes or No	

Thank you for your valuable contributions to the Cleanup!

VOLUNTEER

OCEAN TRASH DATA FORM



Ocean and waterway trash ranks as one of the most serious pollution problems choking our planet. Far more than an eyesore, a rising tide of marine debris threatens human health, wildlife, communities and economies around the world. The ocean faces many challenges, but trash should not be one of them. Ocean trash is entirely preventable, and data you collect are part of the solution. The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort on behalf of ocean and waterway health.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:



SITE INFORMATION:

Cleanup Site Name:

State or Province: Zone or County:

Country: Nearest Crossroad or Landmark:

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON THIS CARD:

adults children (under 12)

MOST UNUSUAL ITEM COLLECTED:

TYPE OF CLEANUP:

Land: ☐ Underwater: ☐ Watercraft: ☐

DATE:

GO PAPERLESS!

Collect and record your data on **Clean Swell!**

Download the free app on your mobile device.



Please return this form to your area coordinator. If you are unable to do so, please mail or email it to:

Ocean Conservancy
Attn: International Coastal Cleanup
1300 19th Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20036
cleanup@oceanconservancy.org

Trash Free Seas: www.oceanconservancy.org/cleanup
Be a Green Boater: www.oceanconservancy.org/do-your-part/green-boating
Sponsors: www.oceanconservancy.org/cleanupsponsors
Clean Swell: www.oceanconservancy.org/cleanswell



TRASH COLLECTED

Citizen scientist: Pick up all trash and record all items you find below. No matter how small the items, the data you collect are important for Trash Free Seas.®

EXAMPLE:

Plastic Bags:

|||||

TOTAL #



= 8

Please DO NOT use words or check marks.
Only **numbers** are useful data.

MOST LIKELY TO FIND ITEMS:



Cigarette Butts:

=

Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.):

=

Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic):

=

Take Out/Away Containers (Foam):

=

Bottle Caps (Plastic)

=

Bottle Caps (Metal)

=

Lids (Plastic) :

=

Straws/Stirrers:

=

Forks, Knives, Spoons:

=

Beverage Bottles (Plastic):

=

Beverage Bottles (Glass):

=

Beverage Cans:

=

Grocery Bags (Plastic):

=

Other Plastic Bags:

=

Paper Bags:

=

Cups & Plates (Paper):

=

Cups & Plates (Plastic):

=

Cups & Plates (Foam):

=

FISHING GEAR:

TOTAL #



Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps:

=

Fishing Net & Pieces:

=

Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece):

=

Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece):

=

OTHER TRASH:

TOTAL #



Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.):

=

Balloons:

=

Cigar Tips:

=

Cigarette Lighters:

=

Construction Materials:

=

Fireworks:

=

Tires:

=

PACKAGING MATERIALS:

TOTAL #



6-Pack Holders

=

Other Plastic/Foam Packaging:

=

Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.):

=

Strapping Bands:

=

Tobacco Packaging/Wrap:

=

PERSONAL HYGIENE:

TOTAL #



Condoms:

=

Diapers:

=

Syringes:

=

Tampons/Tampon Applicators:

=

TINY TRASH LESS THAN 2.5CM:

TOTAL #



Foam Pieces

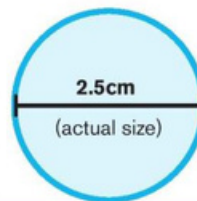
=

Glass Pieces

=

Plastic Pieces

=



DEAD/INJURED ANIMAL

STATUS

ENTANGLED

TYPE OF ENTANGLEMENT ITEM

Dead or Injured

Yes or No

ITEMS OF LOCAL CONCERN:

1.

2.

3.

CLEANUP SUMMARY (circle units)

Number of Trash Bags Filled:

Weight of Trash Collected:

lbs/kgs

Distance Cleaned:

miles/km