

Year-Round Impact

Seeing the amount of litter on shorelines can have an impact on those who take part in a Shoreline Cleanup. After doing one cleanup event, many volunteers want to do something more to help. These tips will help you keep your shoreline clean year-round.

Reduce your plastic use

Single use plastics, such as bottles, grocery bags, and food wrappers, are some of the Dirty Dozen, top 12 items that litter shorelines across Canada. We can make a difference by reducing our plastic use, and making an easy switch to plastic free alternatives.

[Make your own plastic-free kits](#) to help you reduce your plastic use.



Start a recycling program at your school or workplace

Having easy access to recycling for batteries, light bulbs, cell phones and other electronics, makes recycling these items easier. Creating your own drop-off recycling centre or space in your school or office will help ensure these items are sent to the proper recycling facilities, and stay off our shorelines.

Share your cleanup results (friends, social media, media, municipality)

You collected valuable data during your cleanup. Share it!

- Talk with your friends and family about your cleanup
- Share your cleanup on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)
- Send your photos and data to your local newspaper and become a local celebrity
- Take your data card to your municipality and discuss what you found

Properly dispose of cigarette butts



Cigarette butts are the most common type of litter across the globe. Discarded butts can leach harmful toxins into the environment, and animals, like birds, can mistake them for food. If you smoke outside, particularly on beaches, take along a portable ashtray or a small container that can hold your cigarette butts until you can dispose of them properly.

Choose eco-friendly products

What goes down our drains eventually makes its way to our waterways. Choosing environmentally friendly cleaning products and detergents can help keep our waters free of harmful chemicals. Some toothpastes, soaps and facial cleansers **can contain microbeads**, tiny plastic beads that often cannot be filtered out by wastewater treatment plants. Check product ingredients or [learn to make your own products](#).



Bring the Shoreline Cleanup into the classroom

Are you an elementary school teacher? Continue the learning experience with our free lesson guides found in Ocean Wise Education Institute's [Online Learning Environment](#).

Plan a follow-up cleanup event

Monthly cleanups are a great way to ensure that shorelines and waterways stay clean year-round. Organize a follow-up cleanup event at the same site or a different site. Bring a friend who has never taken part!