

NO TO PLASTICS IN OUR SEAS

10 most common plastic objects found on European beaches



Single-use plastic items represent **50%** of marine litter

#PlasticsStrategy



Source: Based on JRC report. © European Union, 2018

“ THE BIGGEST CONCERN IS THE HIGH AMOUNT OF PLASTIC THAT IS BEING RECORDED IN OUR SEAS ”

Litter in the marine environment has become a global concern. It poses a threat not only to the health of our seas and coasts, but also to our economy and our communities. There are various types of marine litter, but the biggest concern is the high amount of plastic that is being recorded in our seas.

Most marine litter is generated by land-based activities. Each and everyone of us can contribute to stop littering our seas. When there are alternatives, we need to stop using plastics, particularly single-use plastics.

Few tips on how to live with less plastic:

- using reusable stainless steel or glass bottles
- taking reusable cutlery or cups to the beach or picnics
- keeping handy reusable shopping bags
- skipping individual plastic produce bags at supermarkets
- choosing to dine in and not take out
- using reusable containers for leftovers

“ MARINE ANIMALS MAY GET ENTANGLED IN THE PLASTIC DEBRIS MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO THRIVE. THEY CAN ALSO INGEST THE LITTER AND THEN CHOKER OR STARVE TO DEATH ”

Plastics are resistant to degradation and persist in the marine environment. Many plastics break into even smaller pieces, entering the food chain. Marine animals may get entangled in the plastic debris making it difficult for them to thrive. They can also ingest the litter and then choke or starve to death.

A PLASTIC BOTTLE CAN TAKE AROUND 500 YEARS TO SPLIT IN MICROSCOPIC PIECES

Monitoring where marine litter comes from, its composition and its fate is essential information on the state of the marine environment, and valuable insight to guide the development of effective management practices that target the reduction of this litter in the marine environment. As part of the requirements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) has put forward actions to address marine litter in Malta's marine waters. These include awareness-raising campaigns on the impacts of marine litter and collaboration with NGOs for beach and coastal clean-ups.



HELP US HAVE CLEANER SEAS, USE LESS PLASTICS!