

Japan Tsunami Marine Debris

**What to do if you see
debris**



Photo courtesy of NOAA
Billions of pounds of trash enter the ocean every year.

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What to do if you see debris

- GENERAL GUIDANCE -

Be safe: If you don't know what it is, don't touch it. Collect as much information from a safe distance as you can. Call 1-855-WACOAST (1-855-922-6278).

- GUIDELINES BY DEBRIS TYPE -

Litter and other typical marine debris items

Common marine debris types will vary by location. If an object appears to be nonhazardous and linked to the tsunami, please report it to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov. Please take photos if possible and provide as much information as you can. Where it's safe and practical to do so, remove the debris and recycle any plastics or metals.

Hazardous materials

Examples: Drums, fuel tanks and containers, gas cans, gas cylinders, chemical storage totes

Do not touch or attempt to move the item. Give authorities a detailed report about what you've observed.

Call 1-855-WACOAST (1-855-922-6278) and press 1.

Aluminum Canisters

10-inch aluminum insecticide canisters often are found in high tide zones. **Do not open the cap** since these fumigant canisters may contain small amounts of toxic phosphine gas. Call 1-855-WACOAST (1-855-922-6278) and press 1.

Derelict boat or other large debris item

Do not attempt to move or remove the boat. Call 1-855-WACOAST (1-855-922-6278) and press 2.

Personal effects or possessions from Japan tsunami

Items that appear to be personal belongings should be treated with respect. They should be reported with as much relevant detail as possible. Generally, these objects should be left in place for later retrieval. However, if the object appears likely to be moved by tide or wave action and it is safe to do so, consider moving the object above the high-tide line. Report these to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov.

Human remains

It is extremely unlikely any human remains from the tsunami will reach the United States. However, if you encounter any remains, immediately call 9-1-1 and give local authorities a detailed report about what you observed. **Do not touch or attempt to move such items.**

Unknown item

Don't touch or attempt to move the item. Give local authorities a detailed report about what you observed. Call 1-855-WACOAST (1-855-922-6278) and follow the prompts.

For more information on Japan tsunami debris, please visit www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/japanfaqs.html and http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2012/itn01_debris.html and <http://disasterdebris.wordpress.com/>