



## MARINE LITTER

**PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR COAST CLEAN - TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME OR USE A BIN.**

- 20,000 tonnes of marine litter are dumped in the North Sea every year.
  - 70% sinks to the bottom
  - 15% floats on the surface, and
  - 15% is washed up on our coasts
- More than one million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die each year after either becoming entangled in or eating plastic materials found in the sea.
- Items do not just disappear after being thrown into the sea.
  - A plastic bottle lasts up to 450 years and will never completely biodegrade.
  - Orange peel & banana skins take up to two years to disappear in the marine environment.
- It is estimated that 2 billion sanitary items are flushed down the toilet every year in the UK. Please bag it and bin it – don't flush it.
- Local Authority beach cleaning around the North Sea costs taxpayers millions of Pounds each year.



[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org.uk](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org.uk)

