



# Become a **#DebrisDefender**



## How does debris end up in our waterways?

Debris is anything man-made and discarded that enters the environment. Most trash comes from land-based sources, sometimes hundreds of miles away from the coast. Trash on the ground may be swept into inland waterways by rain or wind, where it will then make its way into the ocean through rivers and streams.

## Impact of waterway debris

Waterway debris can spread invasive species, become navigational hazards, introduce toxic pollutants, endanger human health and harm wildlife. Plastic debris discarded into waterways can break down into smaller pieces but will never fully degrade. These smaller pieces, called microplastics, can be ingested by marine life. Microplastics can then be passed up the food chain.

## How Can You Become A **#DebrisDefender**?

### REDUCE-

- Choose reusable products over disposable or single-use items.
- The most common debris to reduce: fishing gear, netting, derelict traps, boating debris, snorkel/diving equipment, paper and plastic trash, including straws and household items.

### REMOVE-

- Properly dispose of any trash, including unused traps and monofilament fishing line. Never throw debris overboard, instead stow it away in a sealed container. Once on land, place any debris in the appropriate disposal container at a marina or related facility. Recycle materials like glass, aluminum, plastic, batteries and oil.
- When boating, pay special attention to the [Clean Boater](#) tips. Remove sewage waste at a pumpout facility. Use the [Pumpout Navigation App](#) to locate pumpout services and keep a log of your pumpouts.

### REVIVE-

- Participate in cleanups. Help us channel the power of people to preserve Florida's water. By [volunteering](#), you can reduce overall waste and revive our state's waters from debris.
- Start your own cleanup with the [Clean Swell App](#), available for Apple and Android users. Download the app to easily log items of debris anywhere, anytime.

Protect Florida's  
**Living  
Waters**

DEP wants to see your pollution prevention in action.  
Tag us on social with **#DebrisDefender**.     
Learn more about protecting Florida's living waters:

