



Heirs To Our Oceans
BEACH/WATERWAY SWEEP & BRAND AUDIT
INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES

STEP 1: Coordinate ahead of time how debris will be disposed of after the sort, audit and collection. Is there a local recycling center? What does it recycle? Does it go to a landfill? Can anything be re-used?

STEP 2: Designate your Site Captain.

STEP 3: Prepare forms for the audit to note the various types of plastic debris found and the brands and manufacturers.

* Break Free From Plastic's form can be found here — https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/BFFP_Brand_Audit_Form-Aug-2018-1.pdf — or use H2OO Brand Audit Form simplified version.

* We also like to note how many plastic pieces can be identified as type — eg., plastic beverage bottle — even though we can no longer identify the brand nor manufacturer due to wear and tear. Although some manufacturers can be identified by the shape of the bottle, such as coca-cola!

STEP 4: Collect debris from a 50m or 100m designated location.

STEP 5: Compile collected debris at a sorting site and sort into these piles:

- Beverage bottles and caps
- Beverage boxes/bags
- Glass bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Food wrappers
- Plastic bottles (non-beverage, such as household cleaners)
- Lighters
- Shoes
- Plastic bags
- Branded-Styrofoam food containers (eg. instant Ramen)
- Customs- camping-related plastics used for eating:
 - * plates
 - * bowls
 - * utensils
 - * cups and lids
 - * plastic wrap, such as Saran wrap
 - * trays
- Other plastic
- Fishing gear

STEP 6: Working in teams, conduct a brand audit at each sorted pile:

- Collectors pick up item and report the brand to the recorder, then the collector puts the item into a debris bag.

- Continue until all piles are audited.

STEP 7: Afterward, wash hands thoroughly! Even though you wore gloves.

STEP 8: Upload brand audit information to Break Free From Plastic website for the coalition's data collection — <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/brand-audit-online-form/> — and discuss your findings!

Beach and Waterway Sweep Safety Guidelines:

1. Wear gloves and closed-toe shoes.
2. Don't touch or pick up dead animals or attempt to move injured animals. Instead, notify the Site Captain.
3. Do not pick up syringes, needles, or any hazardous objects. Notify the Site Captain of the hazardous item's location. Those items will need to be disposed of properly.
4. Stay together by working in teams of at least two.
5. Be cautious and aware of sensitive habitat areas (i.e. wildlife, sand dunes).
6. Be cautious of the water and aware of the tideline and shoreline. Keep a distance back from the tideline and shoreline as waves can roll in with strong force that might be expected.
7. Avoid over-exertion, sunburn, heat exhaustion and dehydration. Bring and drink water.

8. **Don't lift anything too heavy – when in doubt, don't try! Always notify a Site Captain of this type of debris for further assistance.**

9. **Do not go near any suspected hazardous materials (e.g., propane tanks, oil or chemical drums, etc.). If debris is spotted that a volunteer suspects to be hazardous or potentially hazardous, the debris should be left untouched and the Site Captain should be immediately informed.**

Heirs to Our Oceans is inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.



www.heirstoouroceans.org