



Safekids Campaign 2009/10

Be Sharp! Keep Kids Safe from Cutting Injuries

Whilst cutting and piercing injuries are rarely fatal, they can result in life threatening injuries and complications.

Approximately 556 children are admitted to hospital each year as a result of a cutting injury. The treatment costs for such injuries are high, with ACC payments (excluding admission to hospital) estimated at \$11.7 million a year.

Twice as many boys are hospitalised for cutting and piercing injuries than girls. Whilst hospital admission data for cutting and piercing includes children of all age groups, children aged 10 to 14 years have the highest number of admissions followed by children aged 5 to 9 years, then children aged 0 to 4 years.

Although cutting and piercing injuries are received from a range of causes, Starship Children's Hospital admission data revealed that 54% of injuries involved a wound to the foot after standing on a sharp object.

Safekids and key agency partners of the Campaign have identified the clean up of public spaces and children's play areas as an effective means of preventing cutting/ piercing injuries to children, raising awareness of the dangers of littering and the importance of disposing of rubbish and sharp objects in a safe way.

The Sir Peter Blake Care for our Coasts, Community Clean Up Kit contains information on how to clean up beaches and waterways. The principles of the project plan can easily be adapted to meet the needs of local communities wishing to focus on the prevention of cutting injuries to children. The clean up techniques used to remove aquatic debris from beaches can equally be applied to: playgrounds, children's play spaces, public parks, walkways or other areas where litter may present a cutting hazard to children.

For some Coalitions and community groups, a community clean up project may offer an exciting opportunity to network outside of usual spheres. Injury prevention and health promotion sectors may wish to pool resources with environmental groups, park management, Local Government and conservationists.

The Sir Peter Blake Care for our Coasts, Community Clean Up Kit provides information on how you can organize and run your own clean up project. The kit contains: a project checklist, clean up methods and equipment list. Recording rubbish collection results and reporting them to the media can help promote awareness of littering and cutting issues.

Safekids emphasises the importance of supervising all children taking part in clean up projects, particularly in aquatic environments.

Sir Peter
BLAKE
ENVIRONMENT

CARE FOR OUR COAST COMMUNITY CLEAN UP KIT



CARE FOR OUR COAST

CLEAN UP OUR COAST KIT

New Zealand is a nation of islands surrounded by the South Pacific Ocean on one side and the Tasman Sea on the other.

We have the eighth longest coastline in the world and by international standards it is relatively clean. However, we should not let that lull us into thinking we don't need to do something to clean-up our waters.

Approximately 90% of New Zealanders live within 50km of the coastline and our marine environment is fourteen times larger than our land area. New Zealanders use the sea and coastline for many purposes, including transportation, energy, fisheries, recreation and tourism. It also has significant cultural and spiritual value. Healthy oceans deliver a range of environmental benefits that are vital to sustaining life on earth. These include the absorption and transfer of sediments and nutrients from land, heat transfer from the atmosphere and carbon absorption.

According to the 2007 State of the Environment report about 30 per cent of our marine environment is thought to experience some degree of disturbance from human activities. For example, it has been estimated that 390 million tonnes of run-off, containing many harmful chemicals, enters our oceans each year. Another major environmental

issue affecting our coastline is litter and debris. Every year approximately 7 billion tonnes of rubbish makes its way into the sea. This has significant impact on wildlife, as well as on human health and livelihoods.

The Sir Peter Blake Trust has created this resource to carry on Sir Peter Blake's vision – to save our seas. By participating in this programme, you will contribute to the conservation of one of our country's greatest natural assets – our seas, coasts and waterways. The animals and plants that live there need our help, thank you for doing your part.

This kit offers guidance and resource material for groups interested in undertaking a coastal clean-up. It provides ideas and suggestions and any person who wishes to become involved in a clean-up operation could easily adapt the ideas and methods to suit local conditions.

**Sir Peter Blake wrote in his last log
on board the Seamaster:**

**“The hardest part of any big project is to begin.
We have begun. We are under way. We have a passion.**

**We want to make a difference.
We hope that you and as many of your
friends as possible will join us.”**

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SAFETY BRIEFING

By protecting our waterways and coastlines, you are protecting our children. According to Safekids New Zealand, approximately 556 children a year are injured severely enough from a cut or puncture wound to be admitted to hospital overnight or longer. For children aged 5 to 9 years, cutting injuries are the second leading cause of a hospitalisation for unintentional injury.

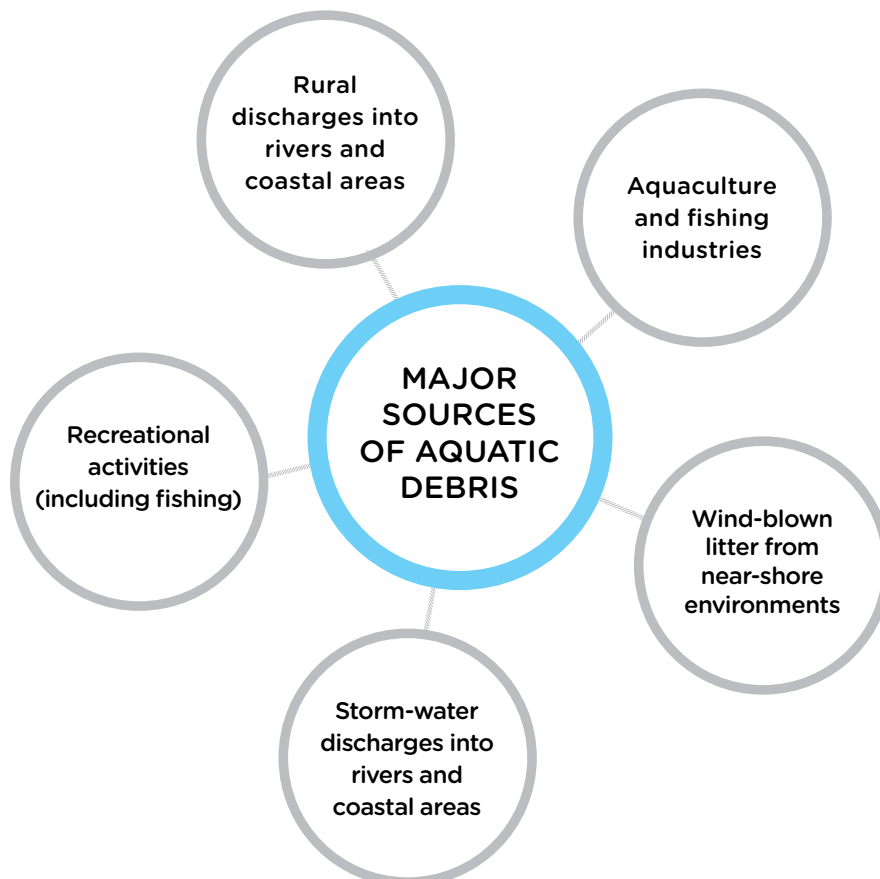
The majority of these injuries are a result of standing on something sharp—such as broken glass, metal, hard plastic, fish hooks, syringes and other sharp fragments.

The good news is cutting and piercing injuries are preventable. By caring for your coast and keeping our waterways and coastlines free from aquatic debris, you can help prevent children from cutting and piercing injuries.

1. WHAT IS AQUATIC DEBRIS?

While cleaning up your coast you are going to find aquatic debris of all kinds. Aquatic debris is any human-made item that has been lost, discarded or deposited into the fresh-water or marine environment. Most aquatic debris will not biodegrade. That means it will stay in the environment for hundreds of years, if not forever.

DIAGRAM WEB OF MAJOR SOURCES OF AQUATIC DEBRIS



2. WHY DO WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT AQUATIC DEBRIS?

There is an increasing quantity of debris entering our waterways and coastlines every year.

This debris is not only the rubbish that is left behind on beaches and on river-banks but is frequently material that has entered our stormwater system, rivers and streams and is then transported to the coast.

- * Eighty percent of marine debris comes from land.
- * This debris as well as being unsightly can be very dangerous to many forms of marine life.
- * Birds swallow the bits of plastic, it clogs their stomachs and then they die of starvation.
- * Turtles mistake floating plastic bags for jellyfish and eat them, choke and die.
- * Dolphins and whales become entangled with fishing lines.
- * Litter that sinks to the bottom damages the seabed.

MARINE DEBRIS STAYS IN THE ENVIRONMENT FOR A VERY LONG TIME

Orange peel	2 years
Cigarette butts	1-5 years
Plastic bags	20-50 years
Tin cans	50 years
Aluminium cans	80-100 years
Glass	1 million years
Plastic bottles	250 years

OTHER DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS INCLUDE

- * Six pack rings cause strangulation to birds and marine animals.
- * Fishing lines can increase drag, slowing marine animals down.
- * Fishing lines cause lacerations to marine animals' skins.
- * Birds, mammals and fish can suffer infection and loss of limbs from lines.
- * Birds, turtles, mammals and fish eat the marine debris and it clogs their insides.
- * The plastic that marine animals ingest, stays in their stomach and attracts other toxins.
- * Plastic acts as rafts for small creatures, allowing them to travel long distances to areas where they are not native.
- * Abandoned fishing gear continues to trap and catch fish.
- * Plastic breaks down into smaller fragments and is mistaken for prey and eaten.

3. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

We can reduce the amount of litter we produce by trying to create zero waste. We can do this by using textile shopping bags instead of accepting plastic bags for our purchases.

You could also buy food from markets or shops that do not pre-package hence cutting down on packaging materials that are typically plastic and Styrofoam.

We can be careful and considerate with our own litter and ensure that it is properly and safely disposed of in rubbish bins or take it home.

We can ensure that 'outside drains only drain rain' and ensure that litter and other harmful substances such as paint, oil and detergent do not enter the storm water drainage system.

We can organise a coastal clean-up (for a beach, river, stream or lake front). We can expand this clean-up to 'adopt' the coastal area and clean that particular area every few months.

4. PREPARING FOR A CLEAN-UP OPERATION

PEOPLE

- * Which clean-up method would suit the people who have volunteered?
- * People working individually, in pairs or larger groups?
- * If there are young children involved in the cleanup, is there adequate supervision for them around the water?

EQUIPMENT

- * Gloves, hats, boots or closed shoes and sunscreen
- * Rubbish bags for collection and disposal
- * Survey sheet, pen/pencil, tape measure and a knife

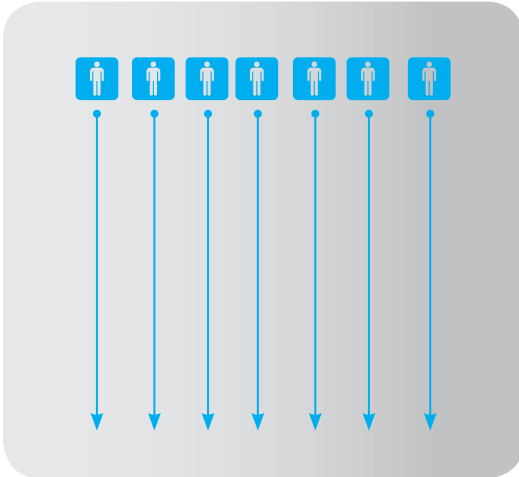
LOCAL AUTHORITY

- * Inform and seek permission if necessary
- * Method for disposal of bags of collected debris

5. DIFFERENT CLEAN-UP METHODS

SWEEP

Collectors move in a line across the clean-up area and pick up litter as they move.

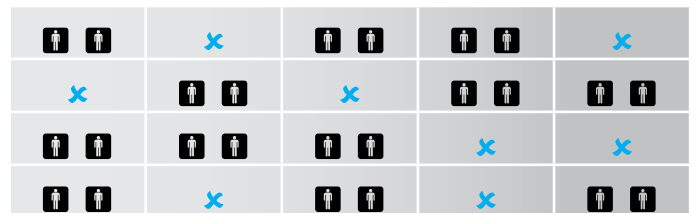
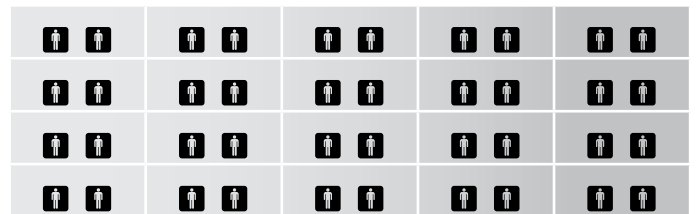


GRIDS AND QUADRATS

Divide the clean-up area into similar sized rectangular / square areas. One or two people are assigned to each area and they are responsible for cleaning up that one area.

OR

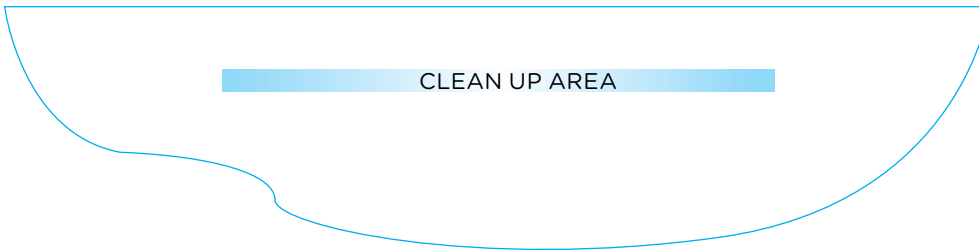
If the area is very large, then randomly select a suitable number of similar sized rectangular / square areas for cleaning. One or two people are assigned to each selected area and they are responsible for cleaning up that one area.



represents non-selected areas

TRANSECT LINE

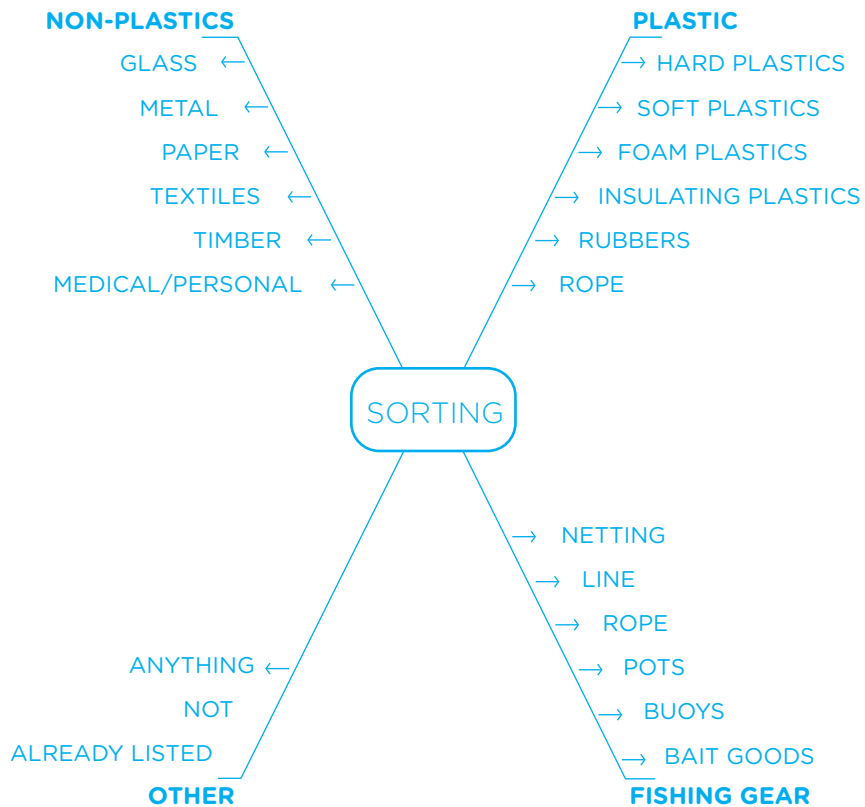
If the clean-up area is very large you can create a ‘line’ along the coastal area and pick up litter within 2 or 3 metres of that line. This means that you pick up litter within a band in that coastal area.



STRAND LINE

Similar to the transect line method but use the high-tide line as the baseline. Pick up litter within 2 or 3 metres of the high tide mark.

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR SORTING COLLECTED MATERIAL



7. CHECK-LIST

		DONE
1	To publicise your event, contact your local paper and ask that they do a story on it.	
2	Write up a risk management profile, considering health and safety issues.	
3	Consider how you will dispose of the bags of rubbish collected.	
4	Organise transport to the beach or waterway.	
5	Organise your group of volunteers to help on the day.	
6	Remind participants to bring gloves, hats, boots or closed shoes, sunscreen, snacks and a drink bottle.	
7	Check with the local council if they can supply large rubbish bags for the end of the collection, and advise participants to recycle shopping bags for the collecting.	
8	Print off a survey sheet to take with you, also pens/pencil and tape measure.	
9	The co-ordinator will need to decide which clean-up method would suit the people who have volunteered.	
10	Organise participants into groups or pairs.	
11	Clean-up Day - using a clean-up method, collect rubbish using gloves and recycled bags, sort rubbish and record results on the Survey Sheet.	
12	Co-ordinator fills in the Survey Sheet for recording information, which can then be used to analyse the data.	
13	Log on to www.sirpeterblaketrust.org to ENTER YOUR OWN RESULTS and receive graphs of the data collected.	
14	Send in data sheet to the Sir Peter Blake Trust for data validation.	
15	Use your data set and graphs for community awareness.	

ITEMS RECORDED			
NON-PLASTIC		PLASTIC	
	Number		Number
GLASS		HARD PLASTIC	
Bottles		Bottles	
Light bulbs, fluoro tubes		Drinking straws	
Other glass		Eating utensils	
Fragments *		'6-pack' yokes	
		Packaging bands	
ALUMINIUM, STEEL, TIN		Cartons / buckets	
Cans		Plastic bottle tops	
Bottle tops / caps		Lolly pop sticks	
Foil trays		Other	
Drums		Fragments*	
Other			
Fragments*		FOAM PLASTICS	
		Cups, plates, trays	
PAPER, BOARD, TIMBER		Packaging	
Paper cups, plates, bowls		Insulation	
Cardboard cartons		Other	
Paper bags		Fragments*	
Paper sheets			
Timber (not driftwood)		PLASTIC SHEET AND FIBRE	
Other		Plastic bags - singlet type	
		Plastic bags - other	
TEXTILES AND FABRIC		Mesh, gauze, other woven	
Shoes (incl jandals)		Food wrappers	
Clothing items		Cigarette butts	
Pieces of textile, fabric, towel		Other	
		Fragments*	
MEDICAL AND PERSONAL			
Disposable nappies		RUBBER	
Syringes		Balloons	
Sanitary items		Tyres	
Condoms		Other	
Other			

*Fragments: Please indicate one of the four categories
NONE: There are no visible fragments in the cleanup area
FEW: There are hardly any and fewer than 10 in the cleanup area
MODERATE: There are some fragments and they are noticeable in the cleanup area (probably between 11 and 50 pieces)
MANY: There is a large number of fragments and if counted would probably be more than 1 piece per sq metre

MORE ITEMS		
FISHING GEAR		
	Number	
Rope and cord (non-fishing)		
NETTING		
Monofilament		Approx total area (L x W) :
Trawl		Approx total area (L x W) :
Other		Approx total area (L x W) :
LINE		
Fishing line		Approx total length (m):
Twine		Approx total length (m):
Hooks and other tackle		
POTS OR TRAPS		
BAIT GOODS		
Bait bags		
Strapping - loops		Approx total length (m):
Strapping - cut or Fragments*		
Other		
OTHER FISHING GEAR		
Rope		Approx total length (m):
Buoys or floats		
Other		
Total Mass of all collected debris (kg)		

OTHER ITEMS (NOT LISTED ABOVE)		
DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	APPROX DIMENSIONS (where appropriate)
Total		

Please note any interesting items found!

Please indicate here whether any data relating to source of items found. For example, are there an excessive numbers of bags from a particular supermarket or fast food outlet?

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	WHERE FROM?

10. INTERPRETING THE DATA

Visit www.sirpeterblaketrust.org and go through the environment link to the Care for our Coast section.

- * On the Care for our Coast homepage, click on the 'Results + Data Entry' and 'Enter Your Own Results'.
- * A spreadsheet will open up in a similar format as your clean up form. You simply enter your findings in the form and click 'Submit'.
- * You will then receive your summarised results in the form of pie graphs and bar graphs. This will enable you to see how your results compare with the nationwide clean-up data. Don't forget to bookmark the web-page onto your own computer to refer to later.
- * Please also remember to post, fax or email your completed survey to the Sir Peter Blake Trust, who will validate your data to be included as part of the nationwide clean-ups.

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**WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN ANY PHOTOS
FROM THE CLEAN UP DAY AND YOUR
RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THIS
SURVEY!**