



Japan Tsunami Marine Debris

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, including photos, and report the debris to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov. If the item appears unusual or hazardous, contact your local authorities for specific guidance and instructions.

- GUIDELINES BY DEBRIS TYPE -

Litter and other typical marine debris items

Common marine debris types will vary by location. If the object can be linked to the tsunami, please report it to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov, providing as much information as possible. If practical, we encourage people to remove the debris and recycle any plastics or metals.

Potential hazardous materials (HAZMAT)

Examples: Oil drums, gas cans, propane tanks, chemical storage totes

Contact local authorities and report the item. Provide as much information as you can (e.g., specific location, item description, photos). Do not touch the item or attempt to move it.

Derelict boat or other large debris item

Contact local authorities and report the item. Do not attempt to move or remove boats.

Personal mementos or possessions

Items that are of a personal nature or could be personal belongings should be treated with respect. As with other objects, they should be noted and reported to local authorities with as much detail as possible. Items that can be traced back to an individual or company should be given to local Japan consulates, so they can help return the item to Japan.

Remains

It is highly unlikely that remains from the tsunami will reach the United States, but if you should see any, contact local authorities and report what you observed. Do not touch or attempt to move them.

Unknown Item

If you don't know what it is, don't touch it. Contact local authorities and report the item. Provide as much information as you can (e.g., specific location, item description, photos).

**For more information on Japan tsunami debris, please visit: www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/japanfaqs.html
To request a shoreline monitoring guide, email MD.monitoring@noaa.gov**