



Nantucket Wind Litter Notebook

Help to contribute to the Nantucket Plastics Notebook! Place a container to collect litter carried in the wind, it might take a while to collect something of interest, mostly because the diameter of the cans are small but you could check it every day.

Ideally a metal bucket works best since it does not add plastic to what you collect, the larger the can the better. Find a place you can securely put your container (coffee cans are good) so it will not fall over. You can put out more than one. The idea is that particles in the wind fall out and will end up in the container as the wind passes over the top of it. We do not use plastic containers because that could contribute to what you may collect, **but** if that is all you have then use a bucket, and just record the color of your plastic bucket in your notes. You might want to put a rock in your container so it doesn't blow away and label on the outside that it is your experiment so that it isn't removed.

What you need:

- metal bucket(s) or can(s) (coffee cans are great)
- paper bags or coffee filters
notebook and
- Optional: cell phone or camera, strainer (metal ideally)

In your notebook record the date and time you set up your collection container(s), take a photo or draw in your notebook your set up and describe the size of your container and where you placed it. You may want to place a few containers in different areas at different heights with different amount of wind able to reach them. You could check it daily, if so record the weather each day.

When you are ready to collect what may have landed in your container, take a coffee filter or paper bag of similar size to your container and label it with the date and time also record in a notebook how long the can has been collecting wind driven samples. You will dump the contents into the bag or coffee filter. You might have water in your sample! If so, use a coffee filter and strainer to drain the water away from your collection and let it dry out. Spread the contents around, take a picture or draw what you find for documentation of what landed in your wind trap. What kind of weather did you have between the set up and collection?

Record your observations, did the collector get moved around in the weather? Did it rain into the collector? If you see pieces of plastic or other litter sort them out and count what you collected. You will probably get sand and dirt, leaves and other natural debris. Record in your notebook and share your data with us. You might not get much unless it is really windy and the can is wide. You can collect while walking at a beach or other location, just label and don't forget your container!

Visit our website to upload your findings, and remember that zero contents in the container is data too!

https://umb.edu/nantucket/citizen_science/macroplastic_notebook

What did you find?

Sort into categories to see if you got: sand, natural debris (Twigs & Leaves) and litter: Paper? Plastics? Color? Fibers or flakes? Sizes? Take a photo of your sorted sample. Put your plastic litter into a small paper bag with a label. Is there an identification of where the plastic came from?