

Golf Balls in Waterbodies

Keep your golf balls on the green and out of the blue!



The Golf Ball Project

- Pictured above and below, Alex Weber and Matthew Savoca collect golf balls off the coast of California
- They collected over 50,000 golf balls totaling about 2.5 tons of debris



theconversation.com/a-teen-scientist-helped-me-discover-tons-of-golf-balls-polluting-the-ocean-109769

For some golfers, hitting golf balls into waterbodies is a favorite pastime.

Trying to see how far you can track your ball after hitting it towards an ocean or lake makes for a relaxing afternoon for some golfers. The balls sink - out of sight, out of mind.

But, it is estimated that golf balls can take up to 1,000 years to decompose, and they are dangerous to aquatic life.

Golf balls hit into the water:

- Discharge toxic metals and rubber.
- Contain microplastics.
- Pose a threat to boaters.

Golf balls often have substances added to them that are harmful to wildlife. For example, zinc oxide and benzoyl peroxide, sometimes added for durability and flexibility, are both highly toxic to aquatic organisms.

Golf balls fall under the definition of "refuse," and purposefully driving them into public waterbodies is considered littering under New Hampshire law.

Biodegradable golf balls exist! However, stay away from ones with fish food cores which can contribute nutrients that lead to cyanobacteria blooms.

NH LAKES is the only statewide, member-supported nonprofit organization working to ensure our lakes remain clean and healthy, now and in the future. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299.

