

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

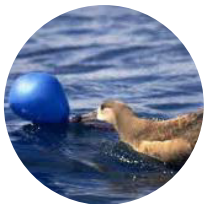
Balloons are meant to be a symbol of joy and of celebration, but pose dangers to wildlife long after celebrations have passed.

The City of Manhattan Beach is committed to reducing marine debris that harms ocean life. Manhattan Beach City Council passed ordinance 19-0003 which reduces the impacts of balloons in the environment. The regulations on balloons became effective in 2019. Under MBMC 5.80 Environmental Regulations, the ordinance:

- Prohibits the release of balloons anywhere in the City
- Restricts the use of Mylar/foil balloons in outdoor spaces like beaches and parks
- Prohibits the sale and distribution of Mylar/foil balloons in the City

BALLOON IMPACTS

- Birds, turtles and other animals often mistake balloons for food
- When ingested, a balloon can block the digestive track of the animal, often resulting in death by starvation
- Ocean and beach wildlife often get entangled in balloon ribbons
- Sea turtles are the most at-risk, as balloons floating in the sea look like their favorite food: Jellyfish!
- During International Coastal Cleanup Day, nearly 100,000 balloons were picked up on beaches around the world



HELP PROTECT OCEAN WILDLIFE

- Never release a balloon into the air
- Celebrate without balloons, choose edible or plantable items, which are less likely to end up in the trash
- If for any reason you end up with a balloon, when done with it, please make sure to pop it and dispose of it properly (cut the string/ribbon off, cut it up and put it into a trash container)
- Pick up any balloons or ribbons you find and dispose of them properly

DON'T LET GO

- Light and buoyant, balloons can travel many miles in the water and air
- Mylar/foil balloons do not break down, and rubber balloons can take up to 4 years to degrade
- Free-flying balloons can travel as far as 1,300 miles away
- Mylar/foil balloons cause hundreds of power outages in L.A. alone every year