



Guidelines for Private Beach Maintenance

James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Mayor, City of Milford

A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH
Director of Health

Homeowners who live on or have access to private beaches in Milford should ensure their beaches are clean and safe from hazards. Hazardous materials such as broken glass, construction and building debris, and medical waste such as needles and syringes can wash ashore. It is important to regularly clean and maintain beachfront property (up to the mean high tide line).

The Milford Health Department provides the following recommendations and guidelines for keeping private beach areas clean and safe during the summer months:

1. Regularly inspect and clean the beach property. Conduct daily inspections to look for hazardous materials. Pay particular attention to the debris line of the tide. This is the area on the sand where the tide has left behind seaweed and other marine debris.
2. Rake the sand on a regular basis. Raking once a week should suffice, but more often as necessary (e.g. after storm events or heavy human activity.) Use suitable tools such as a sturdy aluminum or metal landscape rake. When cleaning, wear appropriate clothing including shoes and heavy work gloves.
3. If medical waste such as needles and syringes are discovered, do not handle it. Place a marker in the area and notify the Milford Police Department at 203-878-6551.
4. Advise visitors, especially children, not to touch needles or other unusual objects found on the beach.
5. In case of needle sticks or other cuts, abrasions and puncture wounds, seek medical attention.

It is a sound environmental practice to clean and dispose of plastics, fishing line and other litter from the debris left on the beach. Communities can organize volunteer beach clean up projects in order to work together to keep the beaches clean. For further information on how to sponsor or participate in local clean-up projects, contact the CT Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse at (860) 424-3034.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Milford Health Department at 203-783-3287.