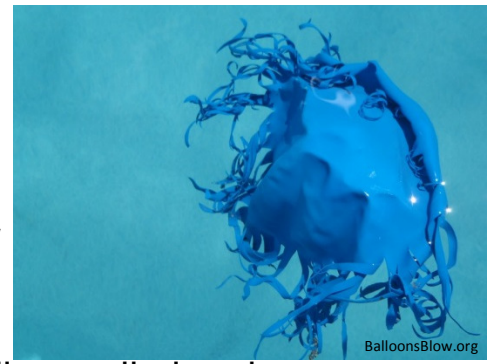


# BALLOONS BLOW... DON'T LET THEM GO!



- When a balloon is let go, it will blow away, only to burst or deflate & return to pollute the Earth.
- Balloons can travel thousands of miles, polluting the most remote & pristine places. Once they do, they become a danger to any animal that comes in contact with it.
- Birds, whales, sea turtles, bighorn sheep, & other wild & domestic animals have been killed by balloons.
- When an animal swallows a balloon, it can block its intestinal tract, leading to starvation.
- Sea turtles & other marine creatures are known to confuse balloons as jellies.
- Ribbons & string that are sometimes attached to balloons can cause entanglement & death.

- Falsely-marketed as “biodegradable”, latex balloons contain chemicals & can take years to break down.
- Mylar/foil balloons can cause dangerous power outages & spark fires. They also can take several years before breaking down.
- Balloon releases are becoming popular with charitable events, memorials, or to bring ‘awareness.
- Balloons used in advertising are often let go – a wasteful practice for any business.
- There are laws concerning balloon releases in several states in the US, also in the UK & Australia.
- Helium is a non-renewable resource & experts warn it should be conserved for more important applications.



- There are many alternatives that will not pollute the Earth or harm animals. We can opt for reusable banners, flags, ribbon dancers, pinwheels. For memorials & fundraisers, we can plant trees, gardens or build birdhouses – actions that promote life. Perhaps organize a clean-up in a loved one’s honor or blow bubbles.
- Please choose sustainable products & be mindful of the simple choices we can make to protect the planet we all share.

For more alternatives, facts & photos, visit:

**BalloonsBlow.org**

