



Island Municipalities Implement New Beach Rules for 2016 Leave Only Footprints ordinances & campaign will strengthen environmental and public safety focus on area beaches – Your help is needed

December 2015

Dear Property Owner or Manager:

In response to concerns related to the growing problem of beach litter and debris, the cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach have adopted new policies which expand maintenance responsibilities and increase enforcement powers on area beaches. To ensure the safety and cleanliness of area beaches and the protection of natural resources:

- All personal items must be removed from the beach daily.
- Any personal property left on the beach one hour after sunset will be removed and disposed of overnight.*

These new policies build upon programs initiated by both cities to reduce litter, promote recycling and increase environmental awareness. Through an island-wide communications effort, the cities, along with Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism, lodging managers and the entire tourism industry, all efforts are being made to inform guests of the new regulations and enforcement policies. **Please use any resources at your disposal to further this communications and enforcement effort.**

The policies require all non-permitted personal items such as beach chairs, umbrellas, tents, ice chests and beach toys be removed from the beach each night and provide for increased trash and debris pick-up schedules to be undertaken in both cities. Gulf State Park enforces similar regulations on its beaches. More effort will also be invested in a beach patrol or beach ambassador program in each city. The ambassadors interact with beach-goers to communicate the new regulations as well as those regarding glass containers, alcohol, pets and digging on the beach, along with the value of responsible practices to the overall health and safety of the natural resources and the public.

For informational materials about this Leave Only Footprints program, visit agccvb.org/stats. For more information about the specifics of enforcement, contact Gulf Shores Public Works or Orange Beach Coastal Programs office. Refer your guests to cleanisland.org for information about this and other island-wide sustainability efforts.

*City of Gulf Shores Ordinance 1792; City of Orange Beach Code of Ordinances Article VI, Chapter 30.

