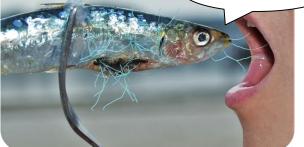


Marine litter has serious implications for human health! Engaging in coastal activities and eating seafood exposes us to marine litter that can cause physical damage or potential accidental ingestion of toxins/chemicals.

Uh-oh...



But the problem is getting bigger... as things get smaller...

Ocean conditions including wave, current and solar action causes plastic litter to break down into **microplastics**. These can also come from products such as facewash, toothpaste and household cleaning products. Did you know? Research from the PLASTOX project found 73% of deepwater fish have ingested microplastics!



There is evidence to suggest that pollutants can attach to microplastics in the ocean. These microplastics can then be ingested by marine organisms.

Did you know?

80% of marine

litter comes

from land

based sources!

Did you know? Cigarette butts are the most common type of

litter found on beaches

Researchers are concerned the current composition of the additives in any plastic object is largely unknown. These are potentially more toxic to marine and human health then the plastic itself.

Did you know? Many governments are moving to ban microbeads

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What can YOU do?

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- Consumers have a big responsibility to reduce their plastic waste.
- Small changes like choosing products with less packaging, using reusable containers, coffee mugs and water bottles, and recycling correctly all make a difference.
- Avoid products with microbeads! Download the Beat the Microbead app to learn more.
- Why not try quick beach clean the next time you hit the beach to take some rubbish home with you, and don't forget to leave nothing behind you

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Much of the waste that we produce ends up on our beaches and in the ocean. Once in the sea, plastic and other litter endangers marine life through entanglement, ingestion and suffocation.

Tell me something I don't know

> Did you know? Research has shown that plastic litter is to be found everywhere in the ocean



Beware 'Biodegradable/Compostable' Plastics! 'Biodegradable' does not necessarily mean that it will degrade in the ocean, as these plastics require specific conditions and temperatures to biodegrade – conditions not available in the marine environment

> For more information... EU GES Descriptor 10 The Ocean Plastics Lab EPHEMARE Project PLASTOX Project BASEMAN Project Beat the Microbead

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