

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.

Did you know?
80% of marine litter comes from land based sources!

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?
Cigarette butts are the most common type of litter found on beaches



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

Did you know?
Research from the PLASTOX project found 73% of deepwater fish have ingested microplastics!



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

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.



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

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 than the plastic itself.

Did you know?
Many governments are moving to ban microbeads

What can YOU do?

- 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

For more information...

EU GES Descriptor 10
The Ocean Plastics Lab
EPHEMARE Project
PLASTOX Project
BASEMAN Project
Beat the Microbead



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