

Microplastics in the News



<5 mm

Microplastics in the News

If you've ever watched a solitary ant explore your countertop, you might have marveled at its tiny size. You also might have questioned how something seemingly insignificant can be such a nuisance in your aspiringly sterile kitchen. Then you remember what your tiny pioneer heralds — the impending arrival of thousands of her sisters — and she suddenly seems like a more formidable adversary.

At a few millimeters short of a typical carpenter ant, microplastics are another case of both extreme smallness and overwhelming magnitude.

-Will Parsons, Chesapeake Bay Program





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From the Field: Trash Trawl hauls microplastics from Bay waters

A research effort seeks to determine the extent of plastic pollution in the Chesapeake





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Microplastic pollution could threaten underwater life, report finds

Technical review investigates issue of microplastics in Chesapeake Bay



Microplastics found in gut of every sea turtle in new study

By Matthew Robinson, CNN

Updated 9:43 AM ET, Wed December 5, 2018



Debris removed from the stomach of a green turtle, including plastic, rubber bands, and pieces of balloon



Pink says she won't post about her family after hateful comments

Gamer-grade Internet from Xfinity

Microplastic pollution in oceans is far worse than feared, say scientists

A study reveals highest microplastic pollution levels ever recorded in a river in Manchester, UK and shows that billions of particles flooded into the sea from rivers in the area in just one year



▲ Plastic pollution is known to harm marine life and can enter the human food chain via our food and water.
Photograph: Will Rose/Greenpeace

Microplastics found in human stools, research finds

By Rob Picheta, CNN

🕒 Updated 8:34 AM ET, Tue October 23, 2018



We Know Plastic Is Harming Marine Life. What About Us?

There often are tiny bits of plastic in the fish and shellfish we eat. Scientists are racing to figure out what that means for our health.

5 MINUTE READ

BY ELIZABETH ROYTE



This story is part of [Planet or Plastic?](#)—our multiyear effort to raise awareness about the global plastic waste crisis. Learn what you can do to [reduce your own single-use plastics](#), and [take your pledge](#).

Read this story and more in the [June 2018](#) issue of *National Geographic* magazine.



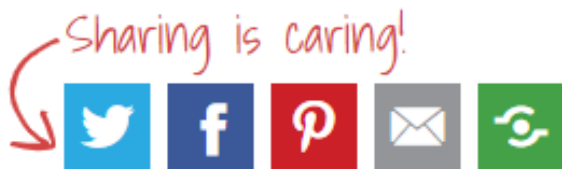
Microplastics ingested by a water flea that's three millimeters long glow green. In a lab, fleas were exposed to round beads and irregularly shaped fragments in amounts higher than in nature. The irregular pieces pose a greater threat because they can clump and get stuck in the gut.



We're guinea pigs in global microplastic experiment

Posted by EarthSky Voices in EARTH | HUMAN WORLD | August 19, 2018

Microplastics are everywhere – in our water, soil, and even the air we breathe. The consequences of this exposure on human health is unknown.





More than ever, our clothes are made of plastic. Just washing them can pollute the oceans.

How much plastic is your washing machine sending out to sea?

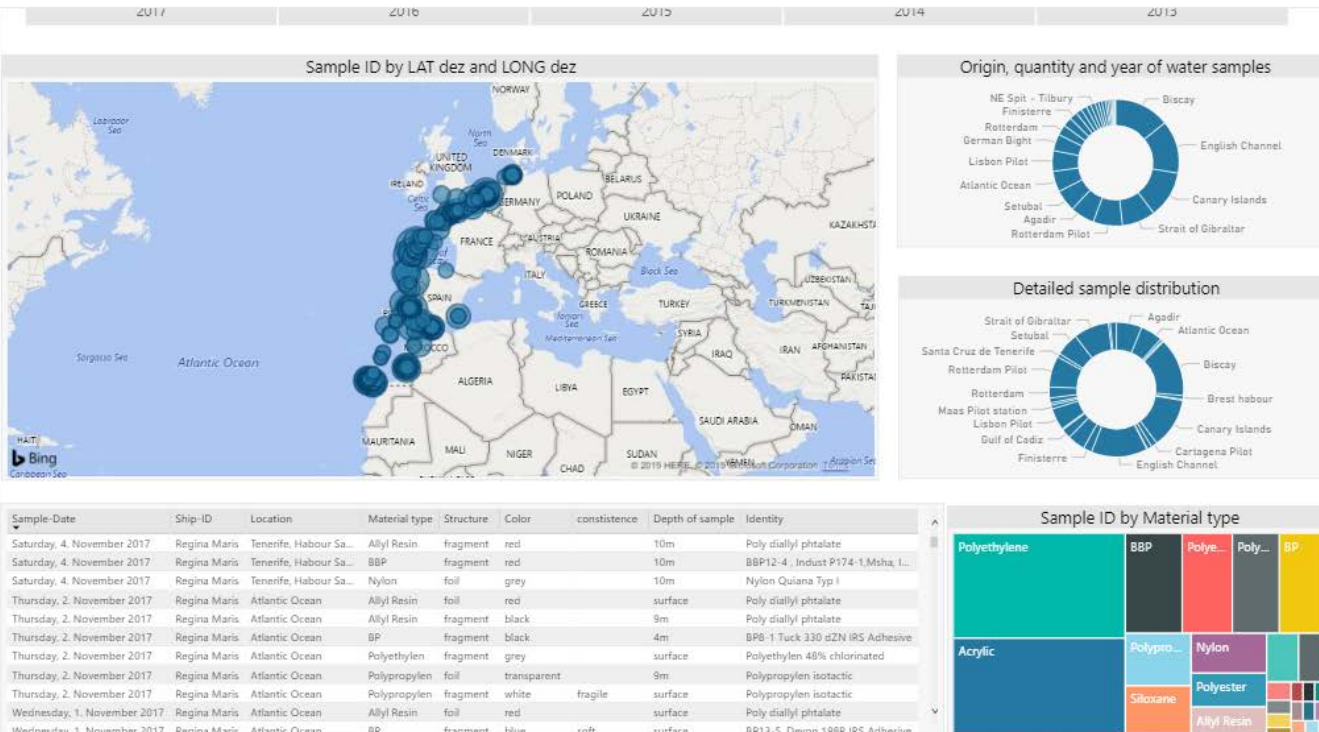
By Brian Resnick | @B_resnick | brian@vox.com | Updated Jan 11, 2019, 10:00am EST



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The
Good

It's no secret that too many of the plastic products we use end up in the ocean. But you might not be aware of one major source of that





Your fancy sea salt may include a dose of microplastics

BY AIMEE PICCHI

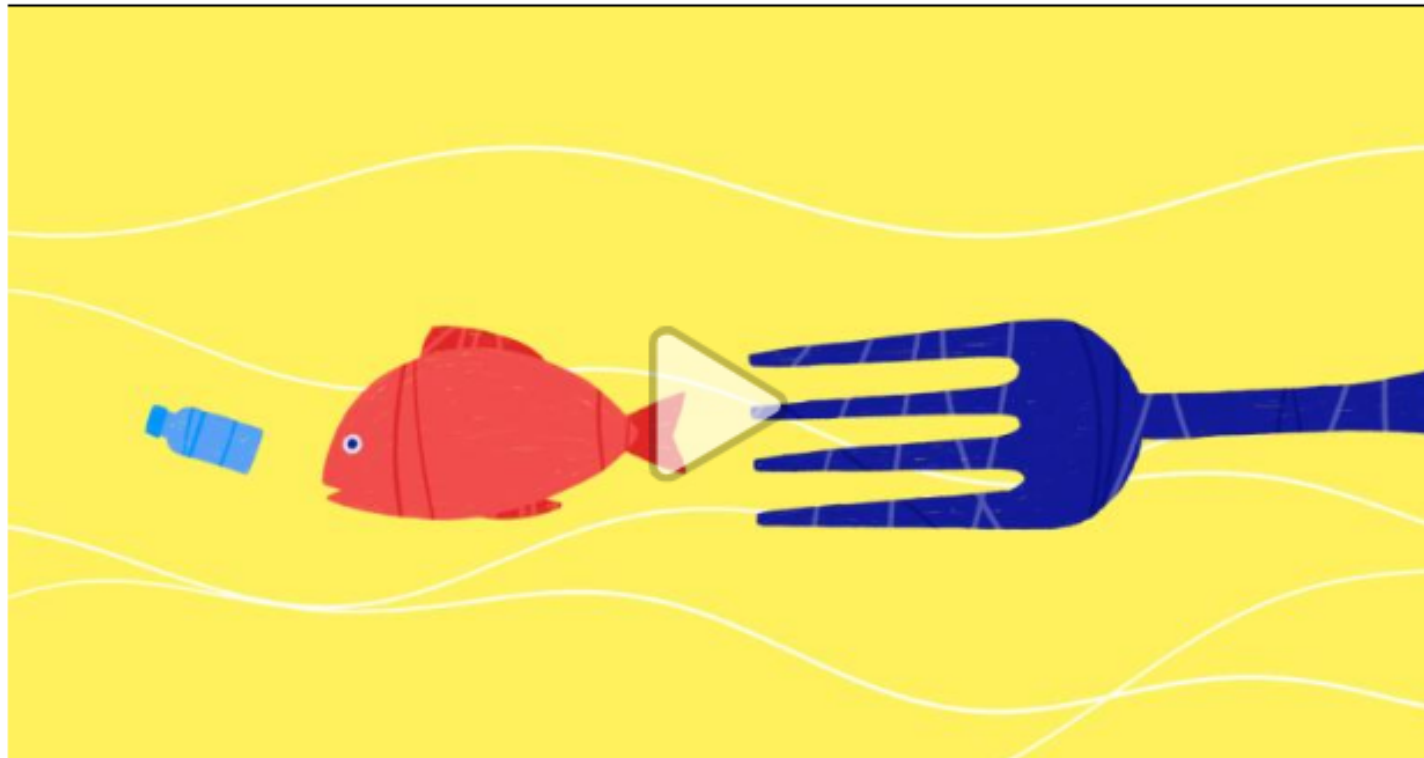
OCTOBER 17, 2018 / 2:08 PM / MONEYWATCH



It's not just the oceans: Microplastic pollution is all around us

By Mark Tutton, CNN

🕒 Updated 4:51 AM ET, Sun April 22, 2018



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Science News

from research organizations

How mussels handle microplastic fiber pollution

Results have implications for how ubiquitous plastic pollution moves through food webs

Date: December 4, 2018

Source: Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences

Summary: New research shows that mussels readily take in microplastic pollution fibers from the ocean but quickly flush most of them out again, according to a new study.



5:41

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Beer, Drinking Water And Fish: Tiny Plastic Is Everywhere

August 20, 2018 · 11:57 AM ET

Heard on All Things Considered



CHRISTOPHER JOYCE



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Microplastic contamination found in groundwater in U.S.

BY KAREN GRAHAM JAN 27, 2019 IN SCIENCE

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A new study is the first to report microplastics in fractured limestone aquifers - a groundwater source that accounts for 25 percent of the global drinking water supply.

Microplastics have been found in the guts of every marine mammal examined in a new study of animals washed up on Britain's shores, say scientists.

Researchers from the University of Exeter and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) examined 50 animals from 10 species of dolphins, seals and whales.

They included mammals found dead along Scotland's coast.

Most of the particles - 84% - were synthetic fibres and the rest fragments of food packaging and plastic bottles.

Microplastics in 'every animal' in marine study

31 January 2019

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Dolphins were among the animals studied

ANIMALS

First Evidence that Microplastics Travel Up the Food Chain and Into Seal Bellies



Ryan F. Mandelbaum

2/23/18 12:40pm • Filed to: MESSING UP THE FOOD CHAIN ▾



11.8K



15



4



Tracking the sources of plastic pollution

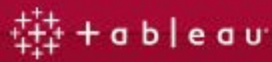
Posted on 09 Apr 2019

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Plastic pollution in the world's oceans is now widely recognised as a major global challenge – but we still know very little about how these plastics are actually reaching the sea.

A new global initiative, led by the University of Birmingham shows how focussing on rivers and river mouths can yield vital clues about how we might manage this plastic crisis.





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Airborne microplastics found atop France's remote Pyrenees mountains

By [Alex Fox](#) | Apr. 15, 2019, 11:00 AM

Microscopic fragments of plastic have invaded the farthest reaches of the sea, from the depths of the Mariana Trench to the freezing waters off Antarctica. Now, researchers have found that such microplastics have polluted the Pyrenees mountains, expanding plastic's dominion to previously unknown heights.



SPIDERSTOCK/ISTOCKPHOTO



Ocean-Clogging Microplastics Also Pollute the Air, Study Finds



Microplastics choke pristine Forni Glacier in Italy

Philip Willan, Rome

April 23 2019, 12:01am,
The Times

Energy

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The Forni Glacier is thought to contain more than 100 million pieces of plastic
ALAMY

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE —

There's just no getting away from microplastic contamination

And we still don't know where a huge portion of our plastic waste even ends up.

CATHLEEN O'GRADY - 4/22/2019, 11:16 AM



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ENVIRONMENT

From Fish to Humans, A Microplastic Invasion May Be Taking a Toll

Tiny bits of plastic have seeped into soil, fish and air, posing a threat to animal and human health

MICROBEADS & MICROPLASTICS

Microplastics are pieces of plastic smaller than 5 millimeters. They enter the environment through the defragmentation of larger plastic that has been left in the environment or directly as microbeads through things like synthetic fibers from clothes or tire wear. Photo credit: Bo Eide.



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Plastics

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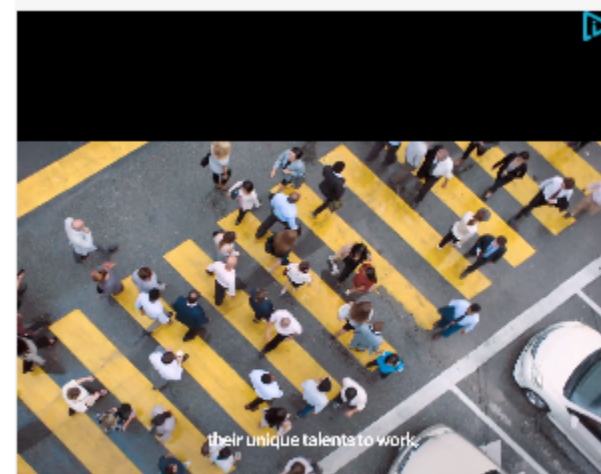
Microplastic pollution revealed 'absolutely everywhere' by new research

Contamination found across UK lakes and rivers, in US groundwater, along the Yangtze river and Spanish coast, and harbouring dangerous bacteria in Singapore

Damian Carrington
Environment editor



Advertisement





Global Microplastics Initiative

We've amassed one of the largest and most diverse global microplastic pollution datasets to date. This data is being used by businesses, governments, and individuals to limit plastic waste.

Click on a map location to open full-screen view and see how many pieces of plastic we found in each sample:





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Occurrence of microplastics in the atmospheric comp...

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ELSEVIER

Current Opinion in Environmental Science & Health

Volume 1, February 2018, Pages 1-5



Microplastics in air: Are we breathing it in?

Johnny Gasperi ¹✉, Stephanie L. Wright ²✉, Rachid Dris ¹, France Collard ¹, Corinne Mandin ³, Mohamed Guerrouache ⁴, Valérie Langlois ⁴, Frank J. Kelly ², Bruno Tassin ¹

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coesh.2017.10.002>

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Highlights

- More than 60 million metric tons of plastic fibers were produced in 2016.



MICROPLASTICS

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PLASTICS December 19, 2018

PLASTICS

Our Complicated Relationship With Plastic: 5 Essential Reads



By [The Conversation](#) | December 24, 2018

INSIGHTS + OPINION



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today's workforce.

1,439 views | Mar 11, 2019, 02:59pm

Microplastics Hurt Gut Health



Linh Anh Cat Contributor

Science

I cover microbes and the environment.

- f** Two recent studies, [one released last month](#) and another that will be [published next month](#), examine the impact of a common plastic,
- t** polystyrene, on the gut microbiome of zebrafish. Zebrafish are a model organism used to understand our own gut conditions, such as inflammatory
- in** bowel disease. Polystyrene is used in food packaging, toys, and electronics. It's also known as styrofoam. We sip coffees, catch waves on surfboards and live in homes made out of styrofoam. It's everywhere. Even inside our own bodies.

CURRENTS

Microplastics Are Everywhere – In Us Too

What do beer, oysters, table salt, air & tap water have in common?

By Sarah Mosko | January 3, 2019

What do beer, oysters, table salt, air & tap water have in common? They're all ways humans are ingesting *microplastics*, tiny bits of plastic waste ubiquitous in oceans, lakes and rivers and even soil and air.

Wildlife as diverse as whales, seabirds, fish and zooplankton are polluted by ingesting plastic debris. It's naïve to assume that humans, sharing the same global environment *and* eating at the top of the food chain, are magically spared

om...



Web links to articles mentioned are on our common drive, or email brooke.landry@Maryland.gov for a copy:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AaJKtMr9KV2ukbkzt1wzHMdfzmOnjQSg1uhOHKNAoVI/edit#>