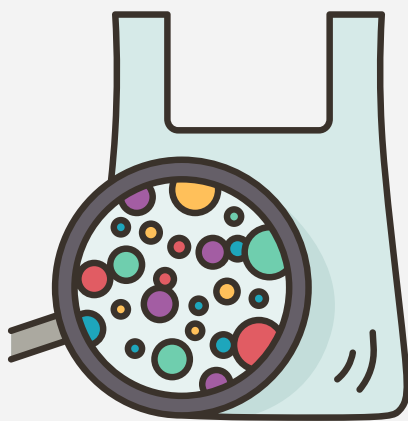


MICROPLASTIC FACT SHEET



MICROPLASTICS ARE

small pieces of plastic that are less than 5mm in diameter. They are, for one, derived from the breakdown of larger plastic products. Plastic never vanishes, but with the help of sunlight, wind and waves, they are grind down into smaller and smaller pieces.

COSMETIC PRODUCTS CAN CONTAIN

up to 90% of plastic particles. They are prominent ingredients of facial cleansers, exfoliating shower gels, hand cleansers, toothpastes or beauty products like lipsticks, mascara or deodorants. When washed down the drain, they pass through the filters of the sewage systems and end up in our water streams.



2,000 PIECES OF MICRO FIBRES

are released in a single washing of synthetic clothing such as polyester, nylon or fleece. They pass the sewage system unhindered and are released into the water ways.



4,360 TONS OF MICROPLASTICS

are used in the EU in one year. Every day, 8 trillion pieces enter the waterways in the US alone. They are one of the largest threats to all marine organisms. Microplastics absorb chemical pollutants like a sponge, and the concentration of toxic chemicals in plastic particles is **one million times higher** than in the surrounding sea water! Marine organisms absorb these toxins when they ingest microplastic.

