

Mother Earth is asking us for help!

Nurdles

What's the Issue?

- Environmentalists have identified another threat to the planet. It's called a nurdle.
- Nurdles are tiny pellets of plastic resin used to make products such as packaging, plastic straws, and water bottles and billions of them are lost from production and supply chains every year—spilling or washing into waterways.
- At the size of a grain of sand, plastics are mistaken for planktonic food by animals lower down the food-chain. Once ingested microscopic plastic particles can pass straight into an animal's circulatory system and lodge in their tissues.
- Unlike larger pieces of plastic like bottles, nets, and bags there is no practical way of removing these micro plastics from the sea.
- Nurdles attract and concentrate background pollutants like DDT and PCBs to highly toxic levels.



- Nurdles are typically shipped to plastic product manufacturers in rail cars or by truck. Some nurdles may be lost during transfer or spilled accidentally from damaged containers. Unless spilled nurdles are cleaned up they will be swept through the [watershed](#) by rain or dry-weather [runoff](#) to the nearest lake, bay, or ocean and also deposited on the adjacent beaches.

Reported Incidents in the United States

Pennsylvania - March 31, 2018, a truck carrying **29,000 pounds** of nurdles capsized off of Route 80 and spilled a portion of its content into the Pocono Creek Watershed. See "Plastic Nurdle Cleanup on PHLT's Pocono Creek Nature Preserve" using the link, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3j_VVG0WhI.



Acting on Our Corporate Stand/What Can We Do to Help?

What we really have to do is change both how we produce and consume plastics. The first step is refusal. Refuse plastics and try to think beyond the plastic bag and water bottle (though those are great starts). Consider some household and hygiene products, for example exfoliators—the bottle is probably plastic but debatably worse are the little exfoliating beads. Yes, those beads are little formed nurdles or "fish eggs" if you are a seabird. There is no hope of being these being recycled. Every time you use such a product the nurdles are washed down the drain and eventually add themselves to the plastic piles in our oceans.

Educate Yourself and Share your Knowledge with Others

Environmentalists have identified another threat to the planet. It's called a nurdle.

- <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/jan/11/theres-a-tiny-plastic-enemy-threatening-the-planet/>
- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=nurdles&&view=detail&mid=AB28C222F6B18B511F71AB28C222F6B18B511F71&&FORM=VDRVRV>