



# THE 5 GYRES INSTITUTE

FOR A PLANET FREE OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

## MICROBEADS FACE TO FISH

**A TUBE OF FACEWASH  
CAN CONTAIN OVER  
330,000 MICROBEADS**

That means billions of plastic  
microbeads are flowing into  
our oceans every day.



**1,147 PERSONAL  
CLEANSING PRODUCTS  
CONTAIN MICROBEADS**

1,147 personal cleansing  
products in the U.S. and around  
the world contain microplastic  
beads. (Source: MICRORBEADS,  
empowered.walgreens.com)

**MICROBEADS ARE DESIGNED TO WASH DOWN THE DRAIN**

### 1 WASTE TREATMENT

Many sewage  
treatment facilities  
do not capture  
synthetic,  
floating particles  
the size of  
microbeads that  
are only about a  
.5 mm in diameter.

### 2 SEWAGE OVERFLOW

During heavy rains,  
some treatment  
facilities' sewage  
overflow goes  
directly into our  
waterways.

### 3 SLUDGE & FERTILIZER RUNOFF

Sewage sludge  
used as fertilizer  
beads seep into  
soil, get into  
rivers/aquifers.

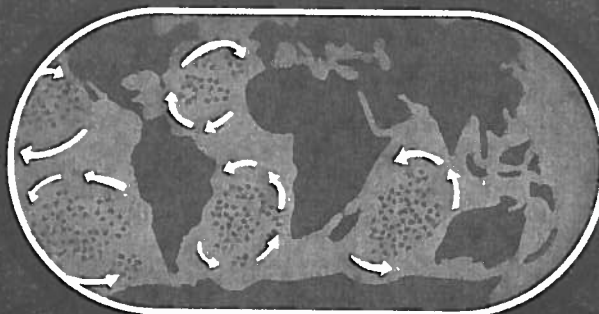
### 663 SPECIES OF MARINE WILDLIFE ARE AFFECTED BY PLASTIC POLLUTION

Over 663 species of  
marine wildlife are  
affected by plastic  
pollution through  
ingestion or  
entanglement.  
Micro-plastics  
particles attract other  
pollutants in the  
environment  
including PCBs,  
flame-retardants, and  
other industrial  
chemicals.

**43,000** 5 Gyres found an  
average of 43,000  
**PLASTIC** plastic particles  
**PARTICLES** /km<sup>2</sup> in Lake Erie.

**A SINGLE PLASTIC PARTICLE  
CAN ABSORB UP TO  
1,000,000  
TIMES MORE TOXIC CHEMICALS  
THAN THE WATER AROUND IT.**

**Micro-plastic particles are being found in all  
oceanic gyres, bays, gulfs and seas worldwide.**



Source: Infographic: Sources: The 5 Gyres Institute, Walgreens, Walgreens.com

**I WANT PLASTIC OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS!**

**5GYRES.ORG/TAKE-ACTION**

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