

Did you know...

**Plastics are inside you right now?
They pollute the food we eat, the water
we drink, and the air we breathe?**

When researchers set out to investigate the exposure risks of plastic on human development, they hit a major snag: they were unable to find a control group. That's right: **There's no group of people on earth that has not been exposed to plastics.**



Microplastics have been found in every corner of the globe, from Mount Everest's summit, to the Mariana Trench's deepest trough. When Microplastics break down into smaller pieces, they become Microfibers. Microfibers can drift through the air and have been found in municipal drinking water systems.

**“Only we humans can
make waste that nature
can’t digest.”**

Charles Moore- World Renowned Architect

Want to help? Here's what you can do.
Watch our 5-minute video:
Microplastic Beach Cleanup Initiative
www.rotaryclubofnewport.org

What is Microplastic?

Extremely small pieces of plastic and debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste.

Plastic pollution tends to float near the surface and build up large rotating ocean currents known as gyres. Microplastics are more concentrated along coastlines but can be found as deep as 4,500 meters.

Did you know....

- At least 1,300 marine species have been found to ingest plastics
- Microplastics have been found in various parts of the human body including lungs, liver, kidneys, brain, blood, semen and breast milk.
- Every year cigarette butt pollution releases roughly 300,000 tons of microfibers into the environment.
- Global plastic production increased from 1.7 million tons in 1979 to 110 million tons in 1989. It now totals about 400 tons annually and is projected to quadruple by 2050.
- Americans alone buy and estimated 50 billion single-use water bottles per year.



Single Use Plastic Water Bottles and You



- It takes 450 years for a single-use plastic water bottle to decompose
- Studies have found that 93% of plastic water bottles contain microfibers
- Most plastics are NOT recyclable; worldwide less than 9%
- Bottled water contains about 50% more microplastics than tap water
- Eco-friendly refillable water bottles contain no plastic

Some Things You Can Do

- Use stainless steel ceramic, or plant based refillable water bottles
- Purchase high-quality water filters for your home
- Cut out single use plastic containers
- Swap plastic storage containers for metal or glass
- Share our 5-minute video **Microplastic Beach Cleanup Initiative** with others
- Scan our QR code and volunteer to do a microplastic summer beach cleanup in Newport, Oregon,



“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

Robert Swan- Explorer & Environmentalist