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PLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

01

Every year over 8 million tonnes of plastics end up in oceans...

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... and break down into smaller particles - microplastics, which enter into the food chain.

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Microplastics include microbeads from cosmetic products and toothpastes and fibres washed off from synthetic clothing.

04

Most plastics contain additives: fillers, plasticizers (phthalates), and colorants, which leach into the environment.

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Whilst immersed in water, plastic particles act as a sponge: accumulating and storing other pollutants onto them.

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The number of animal deaths, caused by ingesting plastic particles or getting entangled, is increasing.



07

Humans can be exposed to chemicals in plastics by consuming food from plastic packaging or eating seafood polluted with microplastics.



PHTHALATES

Used for making plastics soft, flexible, and more difficult to break.

Found in vinyl flooring, clothes, cable coatings, shower curtains, soaps, shampoos, and nail polishes.

Studies have linked phthalates to breast cancer, obesity, preterm birth, intellectual development issues, allergies, diabetes, and hormone disruptions.

BISPHENOL A (BPA)

Found in medical devices, water bottles, sales receipts, and in the interior coating of tins.

Studies link to obesity, thyroid dysfunction, higher risk of cancer, and asthma.

In 2017 The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) recognised BPA as a substance of very high concern due to its endocrine disrupting properties.