

HOW DOES PLASTIC END UP IN THE OCEAN

TRUCK ESCAPEES
Sometimes plastic items fall off the back of garbage or recycling trucks and become litter.

FUGITIVE RECYCLING
When plastic is recycled it gets chopped up into tiny flakes. If a recycling facility is poorly managed these flakes can escape into the environment.

NURDLES
Nurdles are tiny plastic pellets used in manufacturing. They often escape from factories and are washed away by storm water.

CLOTHING FIBRES
Many clothes are made from plastic. When you wash them, tiny plastic fibres break off and enter the waste water.

ROAD RUN-OFF
Rain falls on roads and picks up litter thrown from cars, as well as the tiny particles of plastic dust that wear off car tyres. Oil from car engines joins the mix, creating polluted storm water.

BLOWN BY THE WIND
Litter is blown by the wind. Lightweight plastic film such as plastic bags and food wrappers may travel a long way from where it was dropped. It's only a matter of time before it lands in a drain or river, and from there, the ocean.

TOILET
Waste from the toilet or washing machine goes into the sewerage system. This is totally separate to the stormwater system. A sewage treatment plant processes sewage before emptying into the ocean. Some plastic in sewage can travel all the way to the ocean.

SEWAGE
Waste from the toilet or washing machine goes into the sewerage system. This is totally separate to the stormwater system. A sewage treatment plant processes sewage before emptying into the ocean. Some plastic in sewage can travel all the way to the ocean.

Never flush any plastic down the toilet!

LITTER
The most common types of litter are single-use plastics: **bottles, straws, plastic bags, wrappers, cups and cutlery**. Storm water washes litter down storm drains and out to the ocean.

BEACH CLEAN
Cleaning up plastic at the beach is helpful and it's something that anyone can do. But remember: **The best solution to the problem is to stop plastic from entering the ocean in the first place!**

80% Local
80% of the plastic pollution on our beaches and in the water off our coastlines is from local sources. It comes from our communities.

It's our plastic. And its our problem!

Microplastic
In the ocean, plastic breaks apart into smaller and smaller pieces. **Plastic never goes away**. Micro plastic particles mop up lots of nasty toxins in the water and are then eaten by tiny plankton. The toxins accumulate up the food chain.

96% of all ocean creatures are eating plastic.

