

AUSTRALIAN MARINE DEBRIS INITIATIVE



Senior years 7-10

Lesson 2

Plastic Resin Pellets

Captain Charles Moore – Beat the Micro Bead



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voWTpAE9pqQ>

Plastic resin pellets and micro plastics are very small



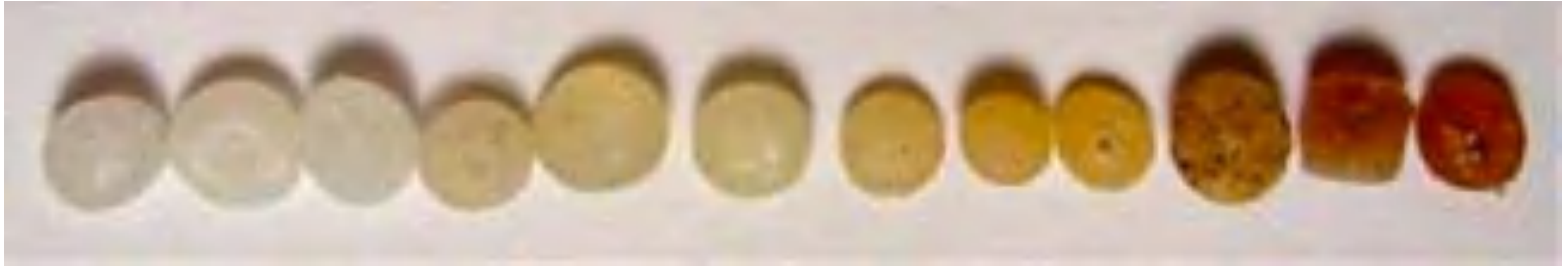
Pre-production plastic resin pellets



Fragmenting post-production plastic items

Plastic resin pellets and micro plastics are very small

Plastic resin pellets change colour depending on how long they have been in the ocean. The darker the shade, the more toxins it has absorbed in the ocean.



The chemical pollutants are organic compounds known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). They are called 'persistent' because they do not go away and stay in the food chain.



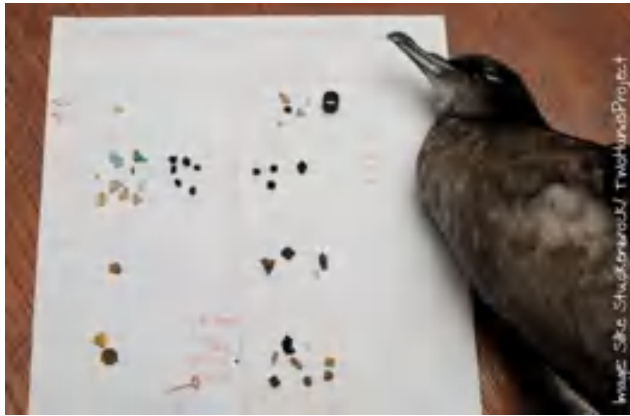
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A plastic resin pellet can easily be ingested along with other planktonic food sources, making a toxic meal for marine life.

Plastic resin pellets and micro plastics are very small

Marine life often mistake micro plastics and resin pellets as fish eggs and other small food sources.



This is a shearwater bird – over 100 of these birds were found at Freshwater Beach in Sydney, many had pellets and micro plastics in them.



Photo: Algalita

This is a rainbow runner caught in the North Pacific – it had ingested plastics. Can you see the plastic resin pellet?



These pieces of plastic came out of a turtle's stomach!



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4JvMwem7mc>

These two video clips show how plastic resin pellets can end up in the ocean



Plastic Disaster – Hong Kong:

<http://vimeo.com/46594524>

Nurdles lost at plastic factory:

<http://nurdle.org/nurdles-lost-at-plastic-factory>

Protect Our Oceans

