



Every day poses new challenges  
to our ocean, waves and beaches.



## 263 Tons

Of microbeads are potentially  
discharged into the U.S.  
wastewater stream annually.

## 360

Plastic bags are used per  
person in the U.S. annually.

## 5.25 Trillion

Pieces of plastic are floating  
in the ocean.

### THE GOOD NEWS

Through Surfrider's efforts, billions of plastic bags annually are no longer littering our coastal communities and polluting the ocean. Our network of passionate volunteers are reducing all forms of plastic pollution ranging from microbeads to single-use water bottles and everything in-between. Join us today and help us free our ocean from the devastating effects of plastic pollution.



**SURFRIDER**  
FOUNDATION.



# Plastic Reduction



Join us and help reduce plastic pollution.

**Surfrider.org**





# Plastic Pollution

Our ocean is turning into a plastic soup. From plastic bottles, plastic bags, cigarette butts and other forms of plastic littering your favorite beach to farther offshore, where millions of tons of plastic are swirling in our ocean waters. Plastic is everywhere.

Plastic lasts forever, it doesn't biodegrade. Instead, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces and remains in the ocean virtually forever. An estimated 250,000 tons of plastic pollution is floating in the five oceanic gyres and it is there to stay. Additionally, an estimated 5 to 13 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean each year worldwide. This plastic pollution entangles, or is ingested by marine life, harming or slowly killing them. As plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller "microplastic" pieces, it enters and poisons the food chain, harming marine life and eventually, us.

It's up to us to change the current flow of plastic pollution through **advocacy for better product alternatives and switching to a reusables in our every day life.**



## RIISING ABOVE PLASTICS

Surfrider's volunteers won't stand idly in the face of this plastic epidemic. That's why we're not just cleaning up the plastic already littering our beaches, but helping people and communities stop plastic pollution before it reaches the ocean, waves and beaches we all love. Our efforts to reduce plastic pollution include:

- Educating the public about the impact that plastics, including single-use plastic shopping bags, plastic water bottles, straws, polystyrene food containers, cigarette butts and plastic microbeads in personal care products have on marine environments.
- Empowering individuals to make simple changes in their daily lives and reduce their plastic footprint by eliminating single-use plastic items like water bottles and bags and recycling when they do use plastic products.
- Working within communities to advocate for change at the source – like local grocers and restaurants.
- Educating policy makers about the harmful effects of single-use plastics and plastic microbeads, and advocating for bans and regulation of these toxic marine pollutants.
- Cleaning up the plastic that is already littering our coasts through regular beach clean-ups

Find a Chapter or a Student Club near you to get involved at **Surfrider.org**.

