

# We can prevent plastic pollution

## Plastic pollution is everyone's problem

One problem with plastic is that it's everywhere. We use it to store our food, keep us warm, and even to clean our skin. Plastic bottles, cups, bags and straws are used once and thrown away. Research shows that much of this plastic has made its way to storm drains, streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean.



Over 80% of plastic debris originates where people live, work, and play. Much of it is single-use plastic.



Plastic is woven into fleece and many other popular synthetic materials. With each washing, plastic fibers are shed into the wastewater. Plastic microbeads in some facial scrubs and toothpaste also wash down the drain. These tiny plastics pass through wastewater treatment into aquatic environments.



## A Toxic Plastic Build-Up

Plastic does not stay put and it builds up in the environment because it does not biodegrade. It breaks down to smaller and smaller pieces. Pieces 5 mm and smaller are called microplastics.

Fish, birds, turtles, and other animals can die from choking, intestinal blockage, and starvation when they are caught in or ingest the plastic.



Plastic absorbs toxins in the water like PCBs, mercury and pesticides. When ingested by wildlife these toxins bioaccumulate. **What will that mean for us, as the plastics and toxins move up the food chain?**



## CLEAN water solutions start with all of us

Plastic-free water begins with us and our daily decisions and purchases. The next time you reach for that disposable plastic water bottle or throwaway container remember, CLEAN water is vital and each person can make a difference.



### Plastic-free, CLEAN Water is possible if we:

- Cut out single use plastics. Refuse, reuse & recycle.
- Lend a hand! Participate in community cleanups.
- Educate others about plastic pollution and solutions.
- Ask for alternative sustainable products
- Nurture habits that limit plastic at home when shopping, eating out or entertaining.

Cut down on plastic use  
Lend a hand  
Educate others  
Ask for alternatives  
Nurture sustainable habits

