



TIP TUESDAY

A weekly guide to help you kick your plastic habits.

CELEBRATE WORLD WATER DAY We Banned the Beads!

Did You Know?

In December 2015 President Obama signed the [Microbead-Free Waters Act](#). The Act will prohibit the sale of RINSE OFF personal care products containing plastics microbeads, such as scrubs and toothpastes, by July 1, 2018.



Useful Info-graphics: *How does this affect me?*

Microfiber as seen
under a microscope

MICROBEAD-FREE WATERS ACT OF 2015

President Obama signed the Microbead-Free Waters Act into law in December 2015. The Act will prohibit the sale of personal care products containing plastic microbeads by July 1, 2018.

How will this law affect you?

Microbeads



Microbeads are tiny (< 5mm) plastic beads found in face washes, body scrubs, and toothpastes for abrasive and decorative purposes. Microbeads are too tiny to be filtered by wastewater treatment processes, so they end up being directly discharged into waterways, causing pollution and harm to marine life.

Law



The Microbead-Free Waters Act bans **RINSE OFF** cosmetic products, such as scrubs and toothpaste. The law does not ban products such as creams, fillers, and cleaning products.

Issues



The federal law preempts bad state laws, the ones that contain the "biodegradable loophole." However, the preemption may raise issues for municipalities with more aggressive implementation timelines.

Environment



Banning microbeads will reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment. While this law will not solve the entire problem, it is a great start to eliminating other sources of microplastic and plastic pollution.

Smart Shopper



Products containing microbeads will remain on the shelf until July 1, 2018. Microbeads will remain in creams, fillers, and cleaning products. Read the ingredients list on the box carefully, if you see polyethylene or polypropylene then that product contains microbeads. Shop for natural alternatives and spread the word! **BE A SMART SHOPPER!**

Created by the Trash Free Waters Program

For more information about getting involved, contact Josh Kogan, TFW Program Coordinator, at Kogan.Joshua@epa.gov

Science Explains:

Articles on how microbeads [affect marine life](#) and [cause pollution](#).

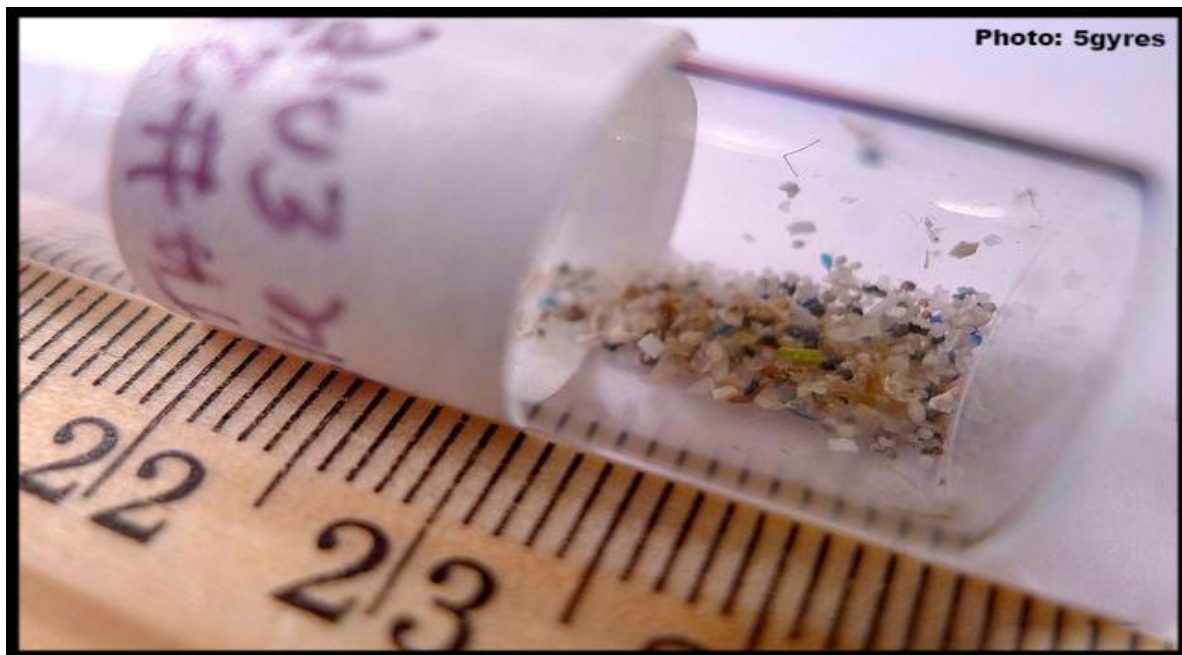
Face Wash Not Fish Food!

You may use microbeads daily in products such as:

- Face scrubs/masks, skin exfoliators and body cleansers
- Various toothpastes

-Various age-defying makeup products and nail polishes

-Check the label for products that contain: polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polymethyl methacrylate, polylactic acid, or nylon



Microbeads in capsule measured against a 1-foot ruler average size >5mm

Helpful Hints: Avoid this list of products using microbeads: [Read More.](#)

Looking for microbead-free products? [Click here.](#)

Go Plastics-Free and end your plastic habits today!