Microplastics: A Hidden Crisis

Where do they come from?

*Estimated source proportions for microplastics* *Microplastics entering from waste loads*

Laundry is a key contributor

Microplastics entering from waste loads

Research has shown that between 6000 and 110,000 microplastics particles are lost in domestic laundry every year, mainly containing microplastics particles. These fibers are discharged into the environment with wastewater, leading to the ocean and other bodies of water.

Testing

New global standards are needed

In a 2022 report, the World Health Organization indicated that more data on microplastic exposure from our drinking water, food and beverages is required to better understand the overall health impact with a particular emphasis on nanoplastics research.

Partnering for research

Microplastics are ubiquitous, and their impact on human health needs further investigation. The expansion of research into the characterization of microplastics is critical for risk assessment.

Concluding thoughts

Agilent works with a group of partners to provide necessary, well-understood, and robust testing flow solutions needed to help bring microplastics in the environment under control. There will also need to be a program of public awareness and engagement.

References:


Insights

- **Hear from some of Agilent’s customers and collaborators around the world who are conducting investigative research on microplastic contamination**
- **Learn about the latest technologies and solutions that Agilent offers to support research on microplastics**
- **Get insights into how Agilent is helping to address the global issue of plastic particle pollution**

Hear from some of Agilent’s customers and collaborators around the world who are conducting investigative research on microplastic contamination.

**Alexander Enderlin**

Environmental Science and Engineering, Tsinghua University

**Nanna Hartmann**

Senior Researcher, Department of Environmental and Resource Chemistry, University of Copenhagen

**Olav Vassdal**

KongsbergVestfold University College

**Valeria Hernandez**

Senior Researcher, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Copenhagen

**Tetsuro Hasegawa**

Professor, National Institute of Environmental Studies, Tsinghua University

**Dominic Spiers**

Head of Environmental Science and Engineering, University of Kent

**Seth Shreeve**

Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford

**Rabbi Mahtab Huyghe**

Professor, School of Public Health and Policy, University of Colorado

**Klaus Rehme**

Professor, Environmental Chemistry, University of Oldenburg

**Filippo Galli**

Professor, Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Padua

**Jens Eriksen**

Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Copenhagen

**Sara Testolin**

Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Resource Chemistry, University of Copenhagen

**Falk Dittmar**

Professor, Department of Environmental Chemistry, Stockholm University

**Christine Charles**

Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Massachusetts Amherst