



**SLO County**  
**Citizens' Climate Education**  
 Working to preserve a livable planet

# LEARN TO REDUCE PLASTIC



Francis Perez - theoceancleanup.com/trash-island



Working to end single use plastic pollution

## PLASTIC IS EVERYWHERE ON PLANET EARTH



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a "cloudy soup" of plastic debris 1.6 million sq. km, more than twice the size of Texas.



Nearly 30 kilograms of plastic found in the digestive tract of a juvenile sperm whale.



Birds feed plastic to their chicks, like this dead Albatross with plastic in gut.

Microplastics enter our bodies via water, food, air, land and from thousands of products from body lotions to tires.

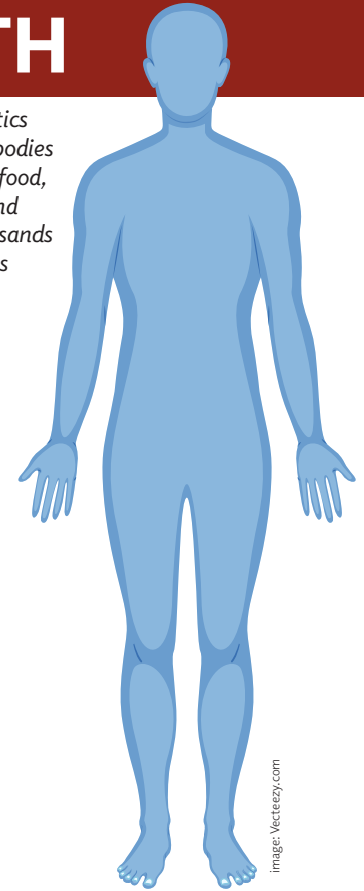
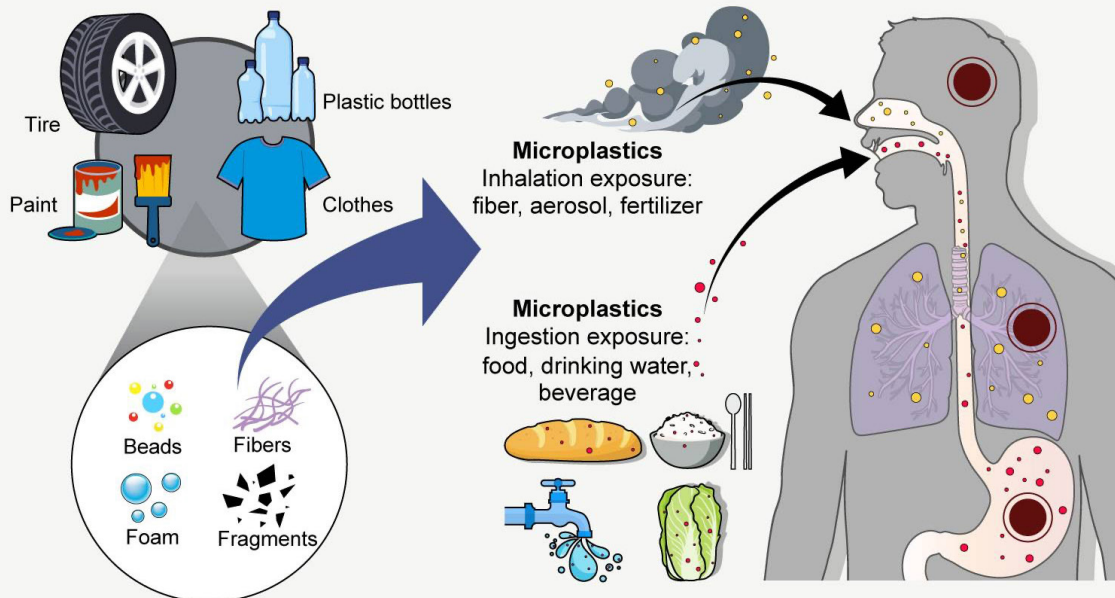


image: Vecteezy.com

## HOW MICROPLASTICS ENTER YOUR BODY

National Library of Medicine (NIH)



Yonsei Medical Journal  
**YMJ**

Vol. 64, No. 5, May 1, 2023  
 Health Effects of Microplastic Exposures:  
 Current Issues and Perspectives in South Korea  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10151227/>

**Health Effects**

- Tissue Inflammation
- Nerve Damage
- Diminished Fertility
- Cancer
- Altered Metabolism

\* Microplastics are small plastic pieces, less than 5mm long, that are found in every ecosystem on earth.

- ✓ Land
- ✓ Air
- ✓ Fresh Water
- ✓ Oceans
- ✓ Plants & Animals
- ✓ Food

Examples include:

PVC products, resin pellets and microbeads in health and beauty products

\*NOAA, National Ocean Service website: [oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics](https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics)

**Almost all plastic is made from fossil fuels, including oil and natural gas (70% *methane*), that are extracted through drilling, mining and hydraulic fracturing. *Plastic production is directly linked to greenhouse gas emissions.***

### Plastic made from fossil fuels is toxic

- ✓ Less than 10% of plastic is recycled because new plastic is cheaper to produce
- ✓ Burning plastic waste emits toxic fumes\* known to cause cancer
- ✓ Emerging scientific evidence shows the negative impacts of micro and nano plastics in humans on cardiovascular, hormone, respiratory and reproductive systems
- ✓ Plastic litter ends up in waterways and the oceans causing the collapse of entire aquatic food chains
- ✓ Plastic can contain over 16,000 chemicals and at least 4,200 are considered toxic to human health†
- ✓ Greenwashing and misinformation about plastic recycling and bioplastic is rampant

Examples:

\*Benzo(a)pyrene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

†Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU)



**Visit us at [SLOCCE.org](https://SLOCCE.org)**