What are Microplastics?

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are harmful to our oceans and marine life. They are often added to face scrubs or toothpastes as an exfoliating ingredient.

Source: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

How You Can Help

All water on Earth eventually reaches the ocean, and many microplastics are too small to be removed by filtering. You have the power to reduce the amount of microplastics that are entering the ocean by making responsible product choices.

Ingredients to Avoid

- Polyethylene (PE)
- Polypropylene (PP)
- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
- Polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA)
- Nylon (PA)

Source: Ban the Microbead, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019

Alternative Ingredients

Many exfoliating products exist without the use of microplastics. Some alternative ingredients include:

- Ground Walnut Shells
- Ground Pumice
- Silica
- Sugar
- Salt

Source: Ban the Microbead, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2019

What is Bioaccumulation?

Bioaccumulation is the increase in the amount of a pollutant in a single organism over time. When predators eat prey that have ingested microplastics, they have now accidentally ingested the microplastics too. Within the food chain, when predators eat predators, the pollutant in a food chain increases in the amount of the organism it is the bioaccumulation of. Although these might seem like small whales, turtles, to sharks and large impact on marine life, from fish and marine ingredients can have a large impact on marine life friendly and reef safe products with marine ingredients will seem like small changes, switching to responsible choices when shopping for different cosmetic products.

What is Biomagnification?

Biomagnification is the increase in concentration of a pollutant in a food chain. When predators eat prey that have accumulated the microplastics, they have now accidentally ingested the microplastics too. Within the food chain, when predators eat predators, the pollutant in a food chain increases in the amount of the organism it is the bioaccumulation of. Although these might seem like small changes, switching to responsible choices when shopping for different cosmetic products will seem like small changes, switching to responsible choices when shopping for different cosmetic products.