

NURDLE PATROL

Nurdle Fact Sheet

WHAT ARE NURDLES?

- Tiny plastic pellets - the building blocks of most plastic products.
- Billions are made each year, but many spill into rivers, railroads, beaches and oceans.

THE PROBLEM

- Nurdles have polluted the environment since the 1950s.
- They spill at every stage; production → shipping → storage
- Wildlife can mistake nurdles for food
- Current prevention programs are voluntary, with only a few companies participating

AWARENESS & ACTION

- Nurdle Patrol collects data through citizen scientists
- National media coverage and the Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium raise awareness and collaboration
- Research reveals nurdle impacts and pushes for stronger solutions

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- **SPOT IT** - Look for nurdles on beaches, rivers, and railroads.
- **RECORD IT** - Log your findings at nurdlepatrol.org.
- **SHARE IT** - Invite friends, family, or classmates to survey with you.
- **CHANGE IT** - Your data helps improve industry practices and shape new laws.

Every nurdle counted is a step toward cleaner oceans.

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Resources and Articles

RESOURCES:

- [Nurdle Patrol](#)
- [Hurdles with Nurdles Presentation](#) - video on YouTube
- [Nurdle Patrol Training 101](#) - video on YouTube
- [River Nurdle Survey Training video](#) - YouTube
- [The Great Nurdle Hunt](#) - The Problem
- [Our World in Data](#) - FAQs on plastics

ARTICLES:

- [No More Nurdles? Formosa's Agreement to Stop Pumping Plastics Into Lavaca Bay Is Historic](#) - Texas Monthly
- [Marine Debris and the Economy Fact Sheet](#) - NOAA Marine Debris Program
- [Nurdle Patrol uses funds from Formosa settlement to distribute plastic pellet collection kits](#) - Victora Advocate
- [Nurdles: the worst toxic waste you've probably never heard of](#) - The Guardian
- [Buoyant, the size of a lentil and almost impossible to recover: how nurdles are polluting the oceans](#) - The Guardian
- [Pennsylvania Plastics Pollution Settlement Could Set a National Precedent for Control of Pellets](#) - Inside Climate News
- [Communities Around the World Find Plastic Pellets in Their Local Waterways](#) - Inside Climate News
- [Plastic Pellets Spilled Along Southern California Coast](#) - Surfrider Foundation
- [Millions of tiny plastic nurdles prompt fears of "major troubles" in Spain after falling from vessel](#) - CBS News
- [Diane Wilson and her scrappy crew of volunteer citizen-scientists took on a polluting billion-dollar plastics company and, nurdle by nurdle, won.](#) - Waterkeeper Alliance
- [Nurdle Patrol Expands its Citizen Scientist Effort to Fight Plastic Pollution on Beaches](#) - The University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences
- [The massive, unregulated source of plastic pollution you've probably never heard of](#) - Vox