

Nurdle Fact Sheet

What are nurdles? Nurdles are very small plastic pellets used in the manufacture of plastic products. Countless billions are used each year to make nearly all our plastic products, but many end up washing up on our shores.

<https://nurdlepatrol.org/>



The Problem: Plastic pellets, or nurdles, have been released into the environment since the 1950s when mass plastic production began. Through Nurdle Patrol data collected by citizen scientists, high concentrations of nurdles have been reported near rivers, on beaches, along railroads and by manufacturing sites. Nurdles spill into the environment throughout the supply chain. It is through regulations and cooperation from the industry that this problem can be remedied. The current program is voluntary and has only reached a fraction of companies.

Awareness: Nurdle Patrol has started several initiatives to bring awareness to this plastic pollution problem. Through research on nurdles and learning how they affect the environment will help understand the impact. Media engagement on this issue also brings awareness at a national scale. Also, the Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium brings researchers together to share data and increase collaboration.

Small Changes: Document any plastic pellet pollution in your community. Get involved with Nurdle Patrol and start taking surveys with friends and family. Using the instructions at [Nurdlepatrol.org](https://nurdlepatrol.org) to conduct surveys will help the global awareness of plastic pellet pollution. Your involvement as a citizen scientist further strengthens the data of plastic pellet pollution. This could turn into small changes in legislation or best practices among the plastics industry.

Get Involved: Join nurdlepatrol.org and like the Nurdle Patrol Facebook page.

<https://nurdlepatrol.org/Forms/Solution/index.php>

Peer Reviewed Papers: <https://utmsi.utexas.edu/blog/entry/microplastic-nurdle-literature>