

# Unraveling the sources of microplastic pollution: Your daily contribution

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Worldwide  $4.9 \times 10^{12}$  microplastics in the oceans



Where does it come from?



One bottle of body scrub = 330,000 microbeads



Synthetic garment = 1,900 fibres per wash cycle



What happens to these “household” microplastics?





Influent

17 microplastics.L<sup>-1</sup>





Effluent

5 microplastics.L<sup>-1</sup>





**CAUTION  
SEWAGE  
OUTFALL**

Daily discharge in Flanders

$14.6 \times 10^9$  microplastics



Scheldt River

15,000 microplastics.kg<sup>-1</sup>



Microplastics in the marine food chain



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