

# Unraveling the sources of microplastic pollution: Your daily contribution

Lisbeth Van Cauwenberghe,

Wout Van Echelpoel, Kris De Gussem, Greet De Gueldre,  
Michiel Vandegehuchte and Colin R. Janssen



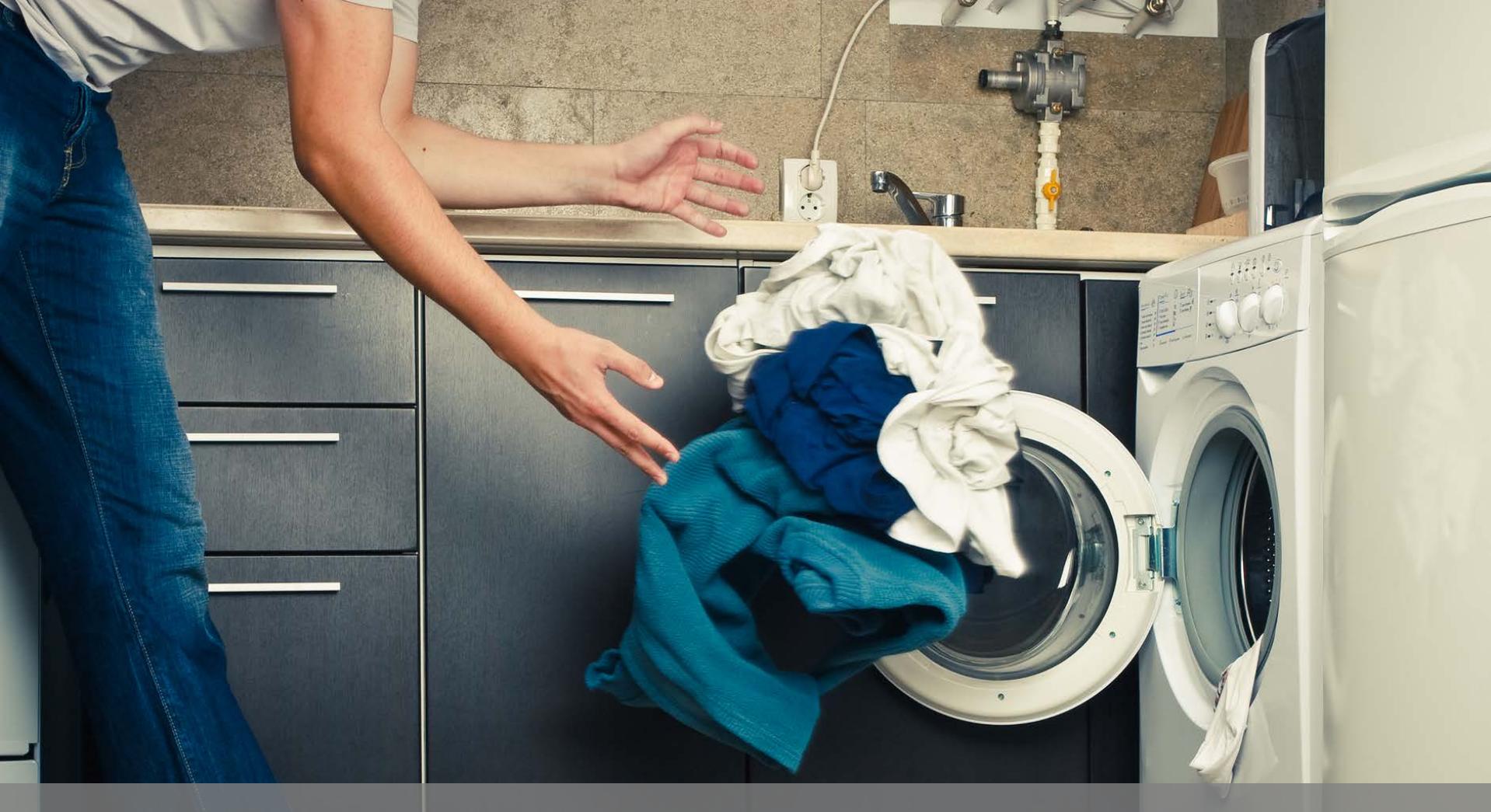
Worldwide  $4.9 \times 10^{12}$  microplastics in the oceans



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>



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

