

Colour in all the sources of microplastics in this scene



## Sources of microplastics in this scene

Microplastics come from many sources.

Any plastic item left exposed to the elements for long periods of time will begin to shed plastic particles to the environment.

Plastic waste left on the beach, like crisps packets and water bottles, will eventually break down into tiny particles, becoming microplastics.

Fishing gear, rope and buoys are often made of, or have synthetic fibres that shed microplastics.

Car tires and textiles are also significant contributors to the microplastics in the ocean. A tires can lose up to 4kg in its lifetime this mass is gradually worn off as plastic dust that can travel, via winds, all over the world.

A lot of the clothes we wear are made of plastics such as polyester, nylon and acrylic. Every time we wash these in the washing machine microfibres are shed. It is estimated that one load of clothes releases about 700,000 fibres per wash!

Some types of paint, road markings and road surfaces also contribute microplastics to the environment.

