



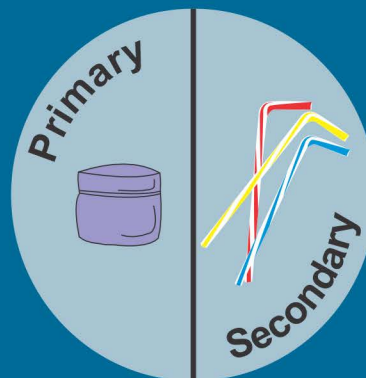
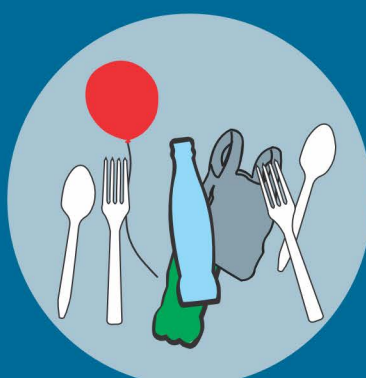
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Today's plastics ARE TOMORROW'S MICROPLASTICS



MP-1.7 07/2024

While a plastic item may only be useful to us for minutes, its breakdown in the environment has impacts that may last decades or longer.



What's happening?

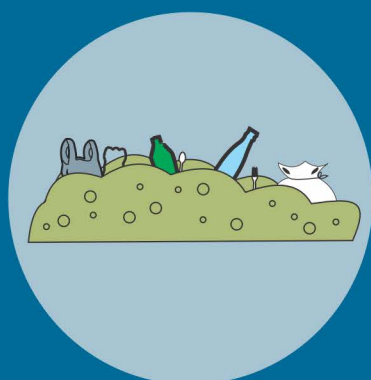
Plastic degrades, but never disappears. Larger plastics break down into microplastics, which are smaller than 5 mm.

Since when?

Plastics have been accumulating in the environment since production began in the early 20th century.

Categories

Microplastics are divided into primary, such as purposefully added beads in facial scrubs, and secondary, which come from breakdown of larger plastics.



How?

A large portion of microplastics in the environment come from the use and degradation of larger plastics left in the environment or disposed of in landfills.



Next decade

Pew Charitable Trusts estimated a 40% growth in plastics production over the next decade. This will lead to a growth of microplastics in the environment. Use the QR code above to find out how to reduce your plastics use.