



Florida Microplastic AWARENESS PROJECT

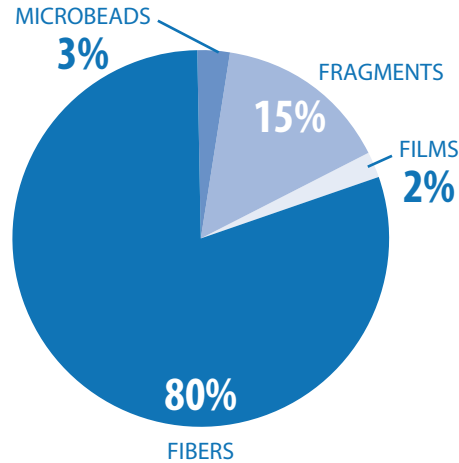
MICROPLASTICS

are found in waters around the world (see tiny.cc/microplastics). To test local waters, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County enrolled students and teachers from Sarasota and Riverview high schools into the Florida Microplastics Awareness Project, a citizen science initiative. Samples collected across the county and analyzed by students revealed:

- **Fibers:** from clothing, fleece, sheets and more;
- **Fragments:** from larger plastics, deodorants, mascaras, and others;
- **Microbeads:** spherical pieces of plastic added to scrubs, soaps, toothpastes and more; and
- **Films:** used to package food and protect crops.



TYPES OF PLASTIC FOUND



WHAT'S IN YOUR PRODUCTS?

Thousands of personal care products contain harmful microplastics that are having a terrible effect on our environment. To find out more about microplastics visit: www.oceanservice.noaa.gov

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53%

PERCENT OF SAMPLES CONTAINING PLASTIC

2.17

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PLASTIC PIECES PER SAMPLE

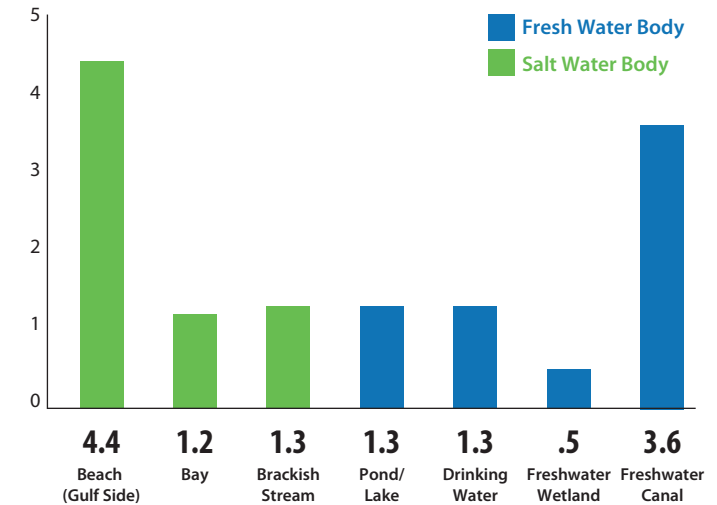
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NUMBER OF PLASTICS IN ONE SAMPLE - TURTLE BEACH

65

ONE-LITER SAMPLES WERE TAKEN THROUGHOUT SARASOTA COUNTY.

NUMBER OF MICROPLASTICS FOUND LOCALLY



Plastics smaller than 5mm



Increasing in Abundance



Do not biodegrade (they never go away)



Contain and attract harmful toxins (e.g. PCBs, PBDEs, and BPA)



Found in personal hygiene products



Harming our oceans, birds, marine life and possibly YOU!



GET INVOLVED: www.plasticaware.org