

Nurdles

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Nurdles Latest News

Recently, tiny plastic pellets (nurdles) were found on beaches in Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala following the sinking of the container vessel MSC ELSA3.

About Nurdles

- These are small pre-formed masses of moulding material that have **relatively uniform dimensions** within a specific batch. These pellets are utilised as raw material in moulding and extrusion operations.
- When in the **form of microplastics**, these pellets are commonly referred to as '**nurdles**' and serve as the foundational material for manufacturing a wide range of plastic products.
- They are classified as **primary microplastics**, these pellets are **between 1 mm to 5 mm** in diameter. They constitute a major component in the global plastic chain.
- Microplastic nurdles are mainly composed of **polyethene, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride**.

- These pellets are melted and moulded into various products, including packaging, water bottles, toys, and textiles.

Impact of Nurdles on Environment

- These pellets remain a **dangerous pollutant**. Their short- and long-term impacts include **habitat contamination** and their breaking up into micro and nano plastics and **entering the food chain**.
- They could have serious implications for the **marine and coastal ecosystems and humans**.

Nurdles FAQs

Q1: What is the meaning of microbeads?

Ans: Microbeads are tiny pieces of plastic, often microscopic in size, that are added to a range of products, including rinse-off cosmetics, personal care and cleaning products.

Q2: What are nurdles used for?

Ans: Nurdles are melted down and made into many plastic items, from clothes to cars, food wrappers to artificial Christmas trees.

Source: TH

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