

WHERE DO THE MICROPLASTICS IN THE SEA COME FROM?

FONTE: MICROPLASTICS AND NANOPLASTICS, 2021
ISQUAPER, IEEP, 2018



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THE PROBLEM OF MICROPLASTICS IN THE SEA

Microplastics are those small plastic particles that **pollute marine ecosystems**. Their **danger to human health** and the **environment** is demonstrated by several scientific studies, because microplastics can be **ingested by organisms** and reach the **food chain**.



SOURCE: MICROPLASTICS AND NANOPLASTICS, 2021 - ISQUAPER, IEEP, 2018

WHERE DO THE MICROPLASTICS PRESENT IN THE SEA COME FROM?

BUT WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

More than **80%** of **plastics** found in **marine environments** has been **produced**, consumed and disposed of on **land**. Therefore, **plastic pollution** on soil is a **problem both of contamination and damage to terrestrial environments** and of **transfer to aquatic systems**. Specifically, microplastic **contamination** on land is estimated to be between **4 to 32 times higher** than in the oceans.



SOURCE: ISQUAPER, IEEP, 2018 "PLASTIC POLLUTION IN SOIL"

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TRENDS AT A GLOBAL LEVEL

Although there is evidence that large quantities of plastic are pouring out into the ocean each year along with other waste, **it remains difficult to assess the actual trends** in their flow. A recent study, published on Microplastics and Nanoplastics, highlights global trends in plastic waste at sea. This analysis shows that, while in **coastal areas** the **amount** of plastic waste has **remained constant**, in recent years, until 2019, **in remote areas an increase is observed.**

SOURCE: MICROPLASTICS AND NANOPLASTICS, 2021 - ISQUAPER, IEEP, 2018



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