PLASTIC MICROBEADS
ARE IN MANY PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS, AND CAN END UP IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY.

For more information visit cleanbay.org or call 650.329.2122.

Microbeads are tiny plastic particles less than 1 millimeter in diameter found in many body care products including some toothpastes and facial scrubs. After use, they are washed down drains to wastewater treatment facilities.

Microbeads can pass through wastewater treatment facilities and into San Francisco Bay.

Microbeads enter the Bay’s foodchain. People may consume fish that have eaten microbeads and other microplastics which may pose human health risks.

New California state law ends the use of microbeads in personal care products effective January 1, 2020. Until then, avoid products that contain them.

The San Francisco Estuary Institute counted 14,000-2,000,000 plastic particles per square kilometer in the Bay which included microbeads, synthetic clothing fibers and runoff and wind-based sources of plastic pollution.*

More than 55 million tiny microplastics, including microbeads, are released into the Bay every day from wastewater treatment plants that are not designed to filter out plastic pollution.*

READ LABELS AND AVOID PRODUCTS CONTAINING POLYETHYLENE OR POLYPROPYLENE.

INSTEAD, LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVES THAT USE SALT, SUGAR OR PLANT-BASED INGREDIENTS LIKE COFFEE, RICE, OR APRICOT SEEDS.

* San Francisco Estuary Institute-Regional monitoring Program, State of the Estuary Conference, 2015, sfei.org/microplastics

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