

Plastic in the Great Lakes

How does plastic pollution impact your Great Lakes?

Plastic Pollution Facts

- ❶ One garbage truck full of plastic enters our oceans every minute.
- ❷ Only 9 percent of plastic waste is being recycled every year in Canada.
- ❸ About 2.8 million tonnes of plastic waste ends up in Canadian landfills every year – equivalent to the weight of 24 CN towers.
- ❹ In Canada, more than one-third of our plastics are created for single-use products or packaging.

In the Great Lakes

- ❶ Plastic pollution accounts for approximately **80 percent of the litter on the shorelines of the Great Lakes**.
- ❷ 22 million pounds of plastic debris enter the Great Lakes every year from the United States and Canada, with over 3 million pounds entering Lake Ontario annually.
- ❸ In a study by the University of Toronto, 100% of the fish collected from the Great Lakes and the Humber River was contaminated with microplastics. The fish collected were observed to contain up to 900 plastic particles per fish.

From our favourite beaches to the wild caught food that we eat, disposable plastics and microplastics are found everywhere. We can see the impacts of accumulated plastic pollution in our local environment every day. It is essential that we change our plastic consumption habits now to eliminate single-use plastic pollution.