

What to do next with your finds

Make a note of the date, where you started your walk, how long did you search for the nurdles. And the fun bit is to count out how many nurdles you found.

Please dispose of any nurdles carefully so they don't get blown back out into the environment. It's best to keep them in a bag and then empty them into the plastic recycling bin at home.



The Manx Wildlife Trust is interested in monitoring how many nurdles are on our beaches, which beaches have more on and if the time of year affects the numbers. This could help us with our studies of marine wildlife as well. We can then pass this information onto the Manx Government and any other interested people.

Please visit our website and use the link to tell us all about your finds.

For more information about nurdles try this website <https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/>, please also post your findings there.

Date	
Location	
Time spent on search	
Number of nurdles found	



WAVE
GOODBYE
TO PLASTIC

#ManxPlasticPledge

Nurdles

What is a nurdle?

They are small pieces of plastic, usually clear, white or a yellowy colour. They vary in size from 3-5mm and are round in shape, very like the size and shape of a lentil!



Be wary as not every small piece of plastic is a nurdle, have a look at the photo below and try to work out which are nurdles.



Where do nurdles come from?

Plastic is made from crude oil, about 4% of oil is used to make these plastic pellets. The pellets are then transported all around the world to factories which make products from it such as plastic bottles and toys etc. The factories often add chemicals to the pellets to make the plastic softer or different colours.



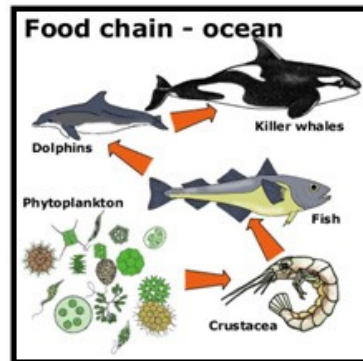
But hey, we don't have plastic manufacturing on the Island, so how do they get here?

In transportation the pellets can be spilt, or containers on ships washed over board. In the factory pellets there can also be spillages, these pellets then get caught up in our drains and rivers and taken down to the sea.



Why are nurdles so different from other small pieces of plastic?

All plastic is not good for the environment but nurdles are small to start with and so easily overlooked. As with all plastic they will gradually break down over time into smaller and smaller pieces. Unfortunately our marine life around the Island can mistake the plastic for food and eat it. This can fill up their stomachs and make them ill. The plastic can travel up the marine food chain starting with zooplankton which are then eaten by small crustaceans like krill, which are eaten by small fish and up the food chain it travels!



But nurdles also act like magnets in the oceans and harmful chemicals stick to their surface and concentrate on the nurdles, which when eaten (ingested) by the marine life can concentrate in their layers of blubber (Fat) and make them ill.

Can you help us find out where there are nurdles on the Island?

Being so small they are hard to find but here are some helpful tips to find them.

Look at the highest part of the beach above the high tide line, this is the highest line of seaweed on the beach. Nurdles are so small and light they wash up and are blown up to the top of beaches, especially where there is lots of sand. They can often be found near to paths and where there are grasses at the top of the beach. They are easier to find in sand.



Beaches that have lots of people visiting such as Port Erin, Peel, Ramsey and Douglas are fine to search along all year around but please avoid the other beaches during the months of April through to the end of July because of the sea birds which nest on there.

As there are chemicals concentrated on the nurdles always wash your hands afterwards, or wear gloves or even try to collect them using tweezers!



Collect your findings in a bag. If you don't find any, hey that's good news and just as important to tell us about. And just because there are some there one day, doesn't mean that they will be there the next day, so keep on searching!