

# Microplastics



Dear friends,

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is working with Federal, State, and local partners to monitor and evaluate microplastics in our lakes, rivers, and coastal waters. Microplastics are very small pieces of plastic, sometimes so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye. The USGS is taking an active role in monitoring and assessing our natural resources in New York and throughout the Nation. To support microplastics research, the USGS has created two laboratories to identify the type and quantity of microplastic particles in water, air, sediment, and animal life. These results will help decisionmakers learn about the presence and potential bioavailability of microplastics in ecosystems and public water supplies.

To learn more about ongoing USGS microplastics research in New York and across the northeast, including how microplastics may affect human and ecological health, scan the QR code below.

Regards,  
Robert F. Breault  
Director, New York Water Science Center



[https://usgs.gov/ny\\_microplastics](https://usgs.gov/ny_microplastics)

Microplastics sampling and analysis (from left to right): sampling along a stream by wading; sampling from a bridge alongside streamflow measurement instrument; jars containing water samples and microplastics on filter paper of processed samples, under magnification; and analyst counting microplastics from a sample.

Photographs by the USGS.

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