



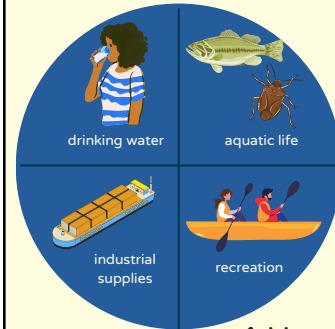
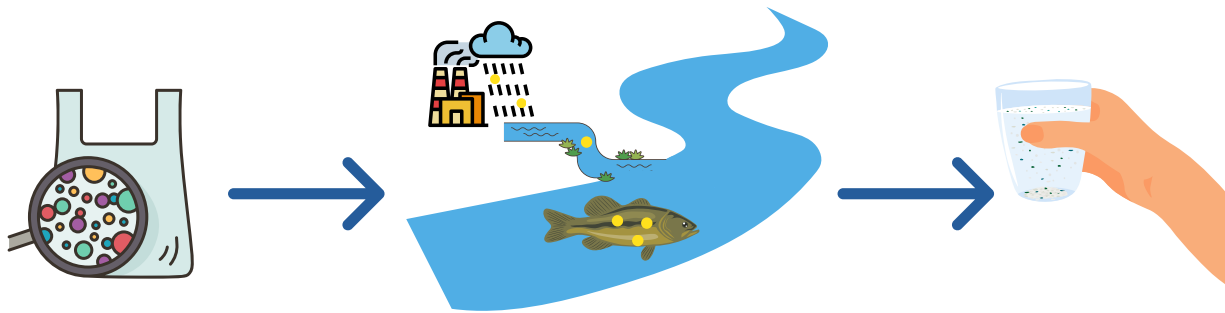
# ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission  
[orsanco.org/water-quality-information](http://orsanco.org/water-quality-information)

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission is a compact interstate agency. Since 1948, ORSANCO and its member states have cooperated to improve water quality in the Ohio River Basin ensuring the river supports its four designated uses. ORSANCO operates monitoring programs to check for pollutants and toxins that threaten water quality of the Ohio River.

## Microplastics

Microplastics (MPs) are plastic particles of <5mm in size. MPs in the environment result from direct releases of tiny plastic particles, or from degradation of larger plastic debris. They enter into the environment through wastewater, road and stormwater runoff, littering, mismanaged waste, and more. They are a growing environmental concern, additional research is needed to understand the full scope of environmental and health impacts.



4 Uses

## Sources



**Primary Microplastics**  
Intentionally produced for cosmetic & industrial purposes



## Prevention

### Avoid Microbeads

Some cosmetic products such as exfoliants use microbeads



**Secondary Microplastics**  
Created by the breakdown of larger pieces of plastic litter & debris



### Behavior Change

- Switch to reusable for single use items such as bags, water bottles, and cutlery
- Dispose of litter properly and pick it up when you see it
- Try to wash synthetic fabrics less frequently



**Other Sources**  
Shed from washing synthetic textiles & car tires and brake pads



## ORSANCO & FORE Ohio River Sweep

- The Ohio River Basin (ORB) -205,000 square miles, equaling approximately 5% of the U.S. mainland
- Single use and disposable plastic litter collects across the basin and along the shores of the Ohio River
  - The Ohio River Sweep engages volunteers to remove litter
  - Plan a cleanup event in the ORB and receive free supplies  
[orsanco.org/river-sweep](http://orsanco.org/river-sweep)



Ohio River Basin