



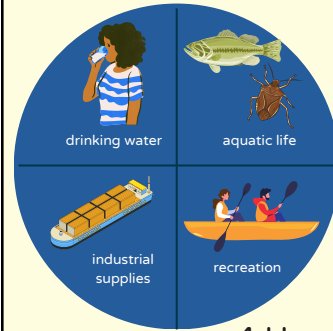
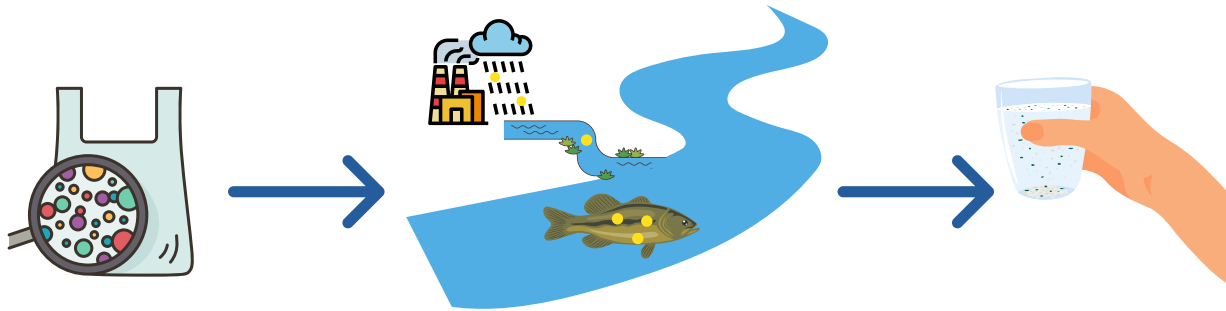
ORSANCO

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
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



Other Sources

Shed from washing synthetic textiles & car tires and brake pads



Dispose of litter properly and pick it up when you see it

Try to wash synthetic fabrics less frequently

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



Ohio River Basin