

# NOWHERE TO HIDE

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While it's hard to imagine that a watery wilderness so vast, deep and unexplored could feel the impact of our human world . . . it has. From warming seas and overfishing to ocean pollution, we're putting the health of our oceans under threat.

Around eight million metric tons of plastic washes into the ocean each year; the equivalent of a full garbage truckload every minute. It twists around fins, necks and beaks, drowning many marine creatures. Weathered by the sun and waves, it breaks down into confetti-sized pieces, or even smaller into tiny glitter-sized microplastics (less than five millimetres) which float on the water's surface or wash up onshore. Mistaken for food, they're swallowed by more than 220 marine species – from seabirds and fish to crustaceans. The effects are felt through the food chain, right to the very top. Us. Without even knowing it, we might consume thousands of microplastic pieces each year in the marine life we eat. We're polluting the ocean at our peril.

But we're also changing.

We're saying no to single-use plastic. We're reusing and recycling. We're working together to protect the ocean. After all, this Blue Planet is the only home for nearly eight billion humans, and an uncountable number of other species – with new ones discovered every day. It's a home worth protecting.



