Sea Grant
Delaware

Microfibers Protect Our Waters

Microfibers are formed when tiny particles break away from products like clothing, furniture, and rope.

All fabrics shed fibers and domestic laundry is a widespread source of plastic microfiber emissions.

What's On Your Tag?

Natural Fabrics

Cotton
Linen
Silk
Wool

Cloth made from plants and animals. The fibers are not altered as they are spun into yarn or woven into material.

Semi-Synthetic Fabrics

Rayon
Viscose
Lyocell
Acetate
Modal

Chemicals are used to dissolve plant pulp (e.g. bamboo) that is then extruded to create fibers.

Plastic Fabrics

Acrylic
Polyester
Spandex
Elastane
Nylon

Based on manmade polymers that usually come from by-products of oil. They are not biodegradable.

Scientists Found:

Microfibers are the most common type of microplastic in Delaware's tributaries and Inland Bays.

Polyester and Rayon fibers are most frequently documented.

Microfibers are found in the stomachs of some local seafood species.

Microfleece (polyester) emits high volume plastic fibers.

Wash with Wisdom:

When purchasing textiles, consider what the fabric is made of. Consider the fabric type when buying clothes.

Use a fiber trapping device to reduce microfibers in laundry wastewater.

Wash plastic fabrics less often.

Wise Washers Consider:

- ✓ Fabric Choices
- ✓ Fiber-Catching Products
- ✓ Wash Frequency

Collect fiber waste by using fiber-catching products and washing machine filters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
deseagrant.org/marine-plastics

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