

WHAT DOES THE ACT DO?

The Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 stops the production and distribution of "rinse-off" cosmetics containing plastic microbeads.

what is a microbead?

Any solid plastic particle less than five millimeters in size that is intended to be used to exfoliate or cleanse the human body. Microbeads are being used as a cheaper substitute for nut shells and seeds in personal care products. In the environment microbeads absorb pollutants in the water and can be ingested by animals.

Deadlines

- **July 1, 2017** - discontinue production of products with microbeads
- **July 1, 2018** - products can no longer be introduced to market

More about the Act...

Currently the act applies to "rinse-off" cosmetics such as body wash, facial scrubs and even toothpaste. The law does NOT pertain to creams or fillers containing microbeads. Biodegradable plastics have not been proven as being safe for the environment, but may be used as alternatives.

What you can do:

Until these products are completely removed from shelves...

- We can limit our purchases of products that contain these two common plastics: polyethylene and polypropylene.
- Call or write to companies still using plastics in products not impacted by this act (e.g. lotions, deodorants)