

Seaford a seabed of nurdles.. A 3 day audit of Seaford Beach...

80% of the litter found on our beaches in Seaford, is from the manufacturers who make our plastic products. A three day in-a-row audit of Seaford Beach showed alarming results, confirming what was a devastating amount of plastic on our beaches. The beach audits were completed on the same 9 square metre locations on the same beach, over three days, from the 21st - 23rd of May 2023, as per the [Port Phillip Eco Centre's Clean Bay BluePrint](#) audit methods.

[The results showed that per one square metre on the beach there was an average of 94 items, 75 of which were plastic production pellets.](#) The average shower base in Australia is 90cm x 90cm. So imagine just a bit larger than your shower base, there's almost 100 pieces of litter, and 75 of those are lazily spilled from plastic factories. 80% of all items found were plastic pre-production pellets. This figure is alarming.

We go on and on about people littering, and how the people, the public, are the problem. We discuss how to reduce our litter through a variety of schemes, from Bring Your Own Cup, to the hugely anticipated Container Deposit Scheme, banning single-use items... We have all the anti lazy, anti-litter slogans assaulting our senses, **'Do the right thing'** plastered all over our bins, **Help Keep Australia Beautiful, Clean Up Australia Day** asking us **'How Will You Step Up?'** **Find a bin and drop it in, Don't be a Litterbug, Keep Victoria Beautiful.**

But this doesn't seem to apply to the very people who create the products that end up being littered, and worse than that - their laziness in the manufacturing phase, accounts for 80% of all the waste on our beaches in Seaford! It boggles the mind.

80% of the litter found on our beaches is littered from the manufacturers who make our plastic products. Plastic pre-production pellets, also given the kinder, cuter, more gentle name - 'nurdles', can be found on beaches all around Port Phillip Bay, however **Seaford seems to be a hot bed of these poisonous pests.** Pre-production pellets are melted down to make plastic products like plastic drink bottles, containers, lolly pop sticks, tooth brushes etc, they enter our beaches through accidental spillage and poor product management at plastic factories and during transport. Nurdles are ingested by birds and fish who die starving, with full stomachs, full of plastic. But another emerging terrifying consequence of the carelessness of plastic manufacturers, some who claim to be sustainable organisations by putting their hand up to take our soft plastics, is that nurdles absorb toxic chemicals, chemicals that are proven to cause cancer in humans. Plastic manufacturers, the plastic factories in Dandenong and Keysborough, whose accidental spillage, carelessness, laziness and unwillingness to take responsibility for their pellets escaping and ending up on our beaches, need to be accountable. **Can our manufacturers 'Step Up', our plastic factories 'Do the Right Thing'?** We need to hold our manufacturers as accountable as we hold ourselves.

The views in this article do not necessarily represent the views of Beach Patrol Australia. Each BeachPatrol and Love Our Street's group has its own leaders and views.



Transect 1 - quadrat 2 mid beach



24 hours later in the same spot.. another 298 plastic pellets were found!



Day 2



Day 3

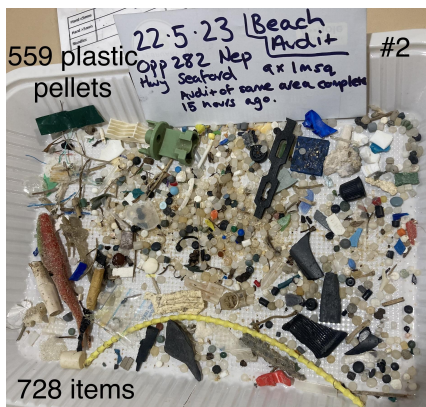


Audit map - 282 Nepean Hwy, Seaford



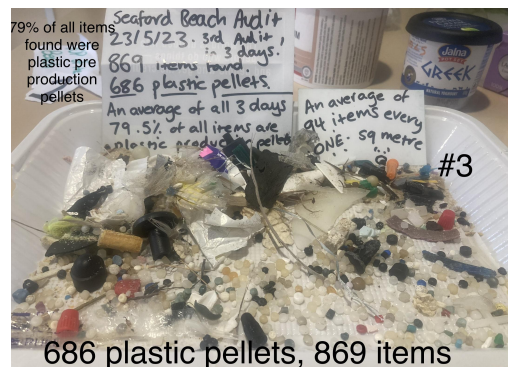
798 plastic pellets

962 pieces in 9 sqm



559 plastic pellets

728 items



686 plastic pellets, 869 items

Seaford Beach - 3 Day Audit - Results

