

## **DANGERS OF PLASTIC AND MICROFIBERS IN THE OCEAN USING A “CORA BALL” CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

“From plankton to whales, animals across ocean ecosystems have been contaminated by plastic. Plastic has been found in 59% of sea birds such as seagulls and pelicans, in 100% of sea turtle species, and more than 25% of fish sampled from seafood markets around the world” ... According to the Ocean Conservancy, ocean trash affects the health of wildlife, people and local economies.

One of the biggest pollution factors in the ocean is microfiber: "trillions of pieces of tiny fibers flow into the ocean every time we use our washing machines." Polar fleece, nylon, polyester and other fabrics are byproducts of plastic and result in these miniscule fibers.

When we run a load of wash, our dirty clothes shed tiny unseen microfibers that are made of plastic. These fibers go down our drains, through water treatment facilities, out our waterways and into our oceans. These tiny microfibers are having a negative impact on the health of our oceans, marine life and in time, on us. Fish eat the tiny microfibers and we eat the fish. Therefore, we too are ingesting dangerous plastics.

Washing one fleece jacket produces up to 250,000 micro pieces in one wash. In the Hudson River alone, 300 million clothing fibers dump into the Atlantic Ocean each and every day.

According to the Cora Ball website, their product pictured below can help reduce the amount of microfibers that wash down laundry room drains. Studies show that if 10% of U.S. households used a Cora Ball, it would keep the plastic equivalent of over 30 million plastic water bottles out of our waterways and oceans.

The Cora Ball is designed to catch these tiny microfibers in your washing machine water before they can pollute our oceans. The Cora Ball is easy to use ... just put it into your washing machine every time you run a load of wash. When you see a build up of the tiny fibers stuck to the ball, pick them out as you would lint and dispose of them in the trash. These simple steps will make a big difference!

The Plastics Pollution Panel at Guild Hall's recent event included the executive director of the Lonely Whale (.org) and she gave the Cora Ball product a big thumbs up. We should all be using this little "ball" in our washing machine ... it stops microfibers from washing down the drain. They even make great gifts!

The Cora Ball costs approximately \$29.99 and is available for purchase online at [coraball.com](http://coraball.com)



Sources: Garden Club of America, The Ocean Conservancy, The Cora Ball, Guild Hall of East Hampton