

Environmentalists call for worldwide ban on glitter

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Harder



Scientists are highlighting the damage that glitter does to our seas, oceans and environment. The scientists are calling for a worldwide ban on the sparkly, shiny pieces of plastic that decorate everything from eyelids to greetings cards to furniture. Scientists from New Zealand's Massey University say glitter is a micro-plastic and should therefore be banned. They say a considerable amount of glitter ends up in

the world's oceans. Fish cannot digest it and it does not break down, so it stays in the food chain. Professor Richard Thompson conducted research in the seas around the United Kingdom. He found that plastic particles were discovered in about one-third of the fish caught.

Micro-plastics are tiny pieces of plastic that are less than five millimeters long. Most glitter produced around the world falls into the category of micro-plastics. Dr Trisia Farrelly told Britain's "Independent" newspaper: "I think all glitter should be banned because it's a micro-plastic." Professor Thompson said: "I was quite concerned when somebody bought my daughters some shower gel that had glitter particles in it. That stuff is going to escape down the plughole and potentially enter the environment." Some cosmetics companies are now discontinuing their use of plastic glitter. The company Lush stated: "We've avoided micro-plastics by switching to synthetic and mineral glitter."



1. Scientists want to ban people from decorating their eyelids with glitter. **T / F**
2. The scientists said all glitter ends up in the ocean. **T / F**
3. Research found that a third of fish in seas around the UK contained plastic. **T / F**
4. Glitter does not fall into the micro-plastics category. **T / F**
5. A cosmetics company uses mineral glitter instead of plastic glitter. **T / F**



1. What do you think of glitter?
2. How can we better protect our seas and oceans?
3. Why do we care more about decoration than the environment?
4. How polluted do you think our oceans are?
5. What do you know about the food chain?