

## This Easter weekend, why not join us for a unique hunt with a citizen science twist...

### Take part in The Great Easter Nurdle Hunt!

**WHAT'S A NURDLE?** Nurdles are small plastic pellets, about the size of a lentil. They are the raw ingredient for virtually all the plastic products we use, melted down to form anything from plastic bottles to bins. Because they are so small and lightweight, nurdles can easily be spilled accidentally when they are handled by industry, and, if they're not cleaned up properly, they can find their way quickly down the drain and into our marine environment.



**WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?** Once in the sea, nurdles are easily mistaken for fish eggs, meaning animals, particularly seabirds, eat them. This can stop them from feeling hungry and eating real food, and can absorb harmful chemicals from their surroundings, which may be passed on to animals that eat them.



**WHY SHOULD WE HUNT?** Although we can't hope to collect all the nurdles that have already been spilled, we can stop further pollution. We work closely with the plastics industry to stop further pellet spills, but we need your help to build up the evidence base: We need volunteers to hunt for nurdles on beaches around Britain, to populate our online [nurdle map](#) – together we can show where the pollution hot-spots are and demonstrate that we'd like to see a change.

#### TIPS FOR YOUR HUNT

-  Nurdles are hard to spot! Slow down and get close to the ground.
-  Nurdles are little plastic disks or spheres, 2-3mm in diameter and can vary in colour.
-  Look among seaweed and small pieces of plastic above the tideline.
-  Other places to look are on sheltered paths and amongst vegetation at the top of the beach.
-  It's easier to hunt on sandy beaches than pebbly or rocky shores.
-  Avoid beaches that are mechanically cleaned regularly.



**HOW DOES IT WORK?** You can hunt for nurdles when you're out walking the dog, as an activity with your local community group, or as part of a big beach clean:

-  1. Pick a ~100m length of beach for your hunt.
-  2. Choose up to 5 nurdle hunters.
-  3. Take a bit of time to get your eye in, as nurdles can be hard to spot (check out our tips for your hunt!).
-  4. Start a 5 minute timer and get hunting!
-  5. At the end of the time, note down how many nurdles you found (a rough range is ok). If you can remove as many as you can, in the time that you have that would be great to prevent them from ending up in the sea on the next tide.
-  6. When handling nurdles, please use gloves and/or tweezers, and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
-  7. If you'd like to, take photos of your hunt / nurdle finds.
-  8. Submit your results to The Great Nurdle Hunt [online](http://www.nurdlehunt.org) at [www.nurdlehunt.org](http://www.nurdlehunt.org). Please add 'MCS Easter hunt' to the extra information box. Also include the number of hunters taking part.

