

PROJECT

You can do this experiment at home and film it to show your class during your presentation. Maybe you'll be the next Zoe Suggs! Or you can ask your teacher if you can do the experiment live if you promise not to make too much of a mess!

What you need to know:

Some shampoos, scrubs, toothpaste and lots of other stuff in your bathroom contain microplastics. That should be on the label, but they often use complicated acronyms. They might as well be in Chinese!

Those microplastics are so small that it's hard to spot whether there's plastic in your toothpaste. And why would they even put plastic in there, right? These small pieces of plastic are used to scrub your teeth clean. And when you finish brushing your pearly whites, they go right down the sink and straight to the ocean.

How can you find out if there's plastic in your toiletries?

The Noordzee Foundation came up with an experiment, this video shows you how that works. Or you can get to work yourself:

1



Choose a product that you think might contain plastic.

2



Put a big tablespoon of it into a container.

3



Pour hot water over it until everything dissolves, don't forget to stir!

4



Pour the liquid through a coffee filter, but be careful, no burns please!

5



Let the coffee filter dry.

6



If you find any blue or white specks in the filter, that's plastic. Good detective work!

These specks are called microbeads. Luckily here are more and more companies that use sand or salt instead of plastic. Those work just as well. The campaign "Beat the Microbead" by the Plastic Soup Foundation shows everyone how that works. And now you can help them!