



SCIENCE



The Great Nurdle Hunt Info Sheet



Plastic pellets, or “nurdles”, are typically small lentil or disc-shaped plastic pieces of a wide variety of colours between 2 and 5mm. The pellets are produced and then sent to the factories which transform them into the plastic items we see on shop shelves. They are spilled into the environment during production, transport or transformation and often end up on our shores. For more information, see <https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/whats-the-problem.html>.

A Rocha supports the work of the Great Nurdle Hunt, run by FIDRA, which invites people around the globe to count nurdles on their local beaches and waterways. This data is entered by collectors into an interactive map where hotspots can then be identified. To view the map, click here: <https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/take-part/nurdle-map.html>.

To participate, all you need is some time, a small jar in which you can collect the nurdles, a little bit of practice in identifying them, and access to a computer with internet to send your data.

Once on a safe and accessible beach or waterway and having checked tide times, start a timer. You can then go ahead and search – we recommend at least 15 minutes. Pick up all the nurdles you see and put them into the jar. Don't forget to take some pictures to document your nurdle hunt!



Once you have finished searching, make a note of the following :

- How long you were searching for
- If there were any areas where the nurdles were particularly concentrated
- The weather conditions

Either on the beach or elsewhere, count the number of nurdles that you collected.

Enter the data on the following form: <https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/take-part/share-your-findings.html>

Why not give A Rocha a shoutout in the “How did you hear about us?” section!

Right now, the best way to dispose of the nurdles is to put them into a container or bag and place in your normal rubbish. They will end up in landfill, but not spread as in a container and also not get into the ocean.

This is a great activity to do as an individual, family, group of friends, or any group of any age. You can do it on any beach or near a lake or river and at any time of year.

