

REMOVING PLASTIC POLLUTION FROM YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN:

A GUIDE TO TACKLING PELLET LOSS

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The raw materials used to make plastic products are microplastics in different forms – sometimes pellets, sometimes flakes or powders. When they're handled irresponsibly, they can reach drains, rivers and the sea. Once there, they're eaten by seabirds and other species, harming their breeding and feeding.



WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?



All companies handling raw plastic materials – from production through logistics to conversion into products – can prevent losses by implementing pellet management guidelines, known as Operation Clean Sweep, which outline simple pellet spills prevention and containment measures.

WHAT CAN I DO?

As a brand that uses plastic – it might be the products you make are plastic or you use plastic packaging – you can play a role in reducing this source of litter. With Fauna & Flora International's guide to ensuring application of good pellet management across the plastics supply chain, you can reduce your pollution footprint.



KEY FACTS

278 pellets have been found in the stomach of a single fulmar

Pellets can carry a million times more toxins than seawater

The USA alone produces ~ 2.3 quadrillion pellets every year

Pellet loss in Europe is estimated at 1.2 trillion pellets per year

It is the second biggest direct source of microplastic litter by weight

On some European beaches, studies have found 3 parts pellets to 1 part sand

Known hotspots include estuaries in Scotland, France, Netherlands and Norway

It takes around 600-1200 pellets to make a plastic water bottle

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A FOUR STEP SOLUTION

If your company would like to ensure its plastic supply chain is pellet loss free, Fauna & Flora International can guide you through the below process, working with your suppliers and the plastics industry to remove this significant but little known pollutant from your operations.

1. INFORMATION GATHERING

The first stage is all about your brand's use and supply of plastic:

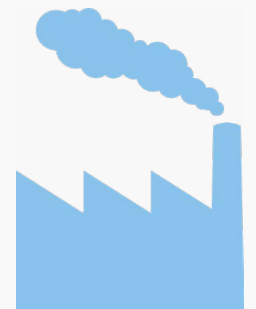
- How much plastic do you use and what do you use it for?
- Who supplies your plastic products?
- Where do your suppliers buy raw material from and who transports it to them?



2. WORKING WITH THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The second stage is about your suppliers' current practices:

- Are your suppliers signed up to operation clean sweep?
- Are their operations regularly audited for pellet loss?
- Can they provide evidence of implementing good pellet management?



3. ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICE

The third stage is about ensuring best practice across the supply chain:

- Can a requirement to apply Operation Clean Sweep be shared up and down the supply chain?
- Can pellet loss audit reports be requested?
- Are you interested in using supply chain standards to ensure good pellet management?



4. EXCHANGING BEST PRACTICE

The last stage is about demonstrating progress:

- Are you happy to provide case studies?
- Do you want us to promote your pellet loss free operations?
- Are you interested to learn from other businesses' experiences?

