



# DO YOU MANUFACTURE, IMPORT OR SELL TOILETRIES?

## CANADA HAS BANNED MICROBEADS IN TOILETRIES

On June 14, 2017, the Government of Canada published the **Microbeads in Toiletries Regulations**. The Regulations ban the **manufacture, import, and sale** of toiletries that contain plastic microbeads. The prohibition timelines are presented in the table below. These Regulations are designed to prevent the release of plastic microbeads from toiletries that rinse off and wash down household drains, contributing to plastic pollution in our oceans, rivers and lakes.

### What toiletries are covered by the Regulations?

For these Regulations, toiletries are any personal hair, skin, teeth or mouth care products for cleansing or hygiene, including exfoliants.

EXAMPLES OF TOILETRIES ARE EXFOLIANTS,  
BATH AND BODY PRODUCTS, SKIN CLEANSERS  
AND TOOTHPASTE.

### What are microbeads?

The Government of Canada has added plastic microbeads that are equal to or less than 5 millimetres in size to its list of toxic substances. For the purposes of the Regulations, microbeads include any solid plastic particles that correspond to that size.

### Exclusions

The Regulations do not apply to toiletries that are transiting through Canada, or that are prescription drugs as defined by the Food and Drug Regulations.

PROHIBITION TIMELINES FOR TOILETRIES CONTAINING MICROBEADS		PROHIBITION DATE
Manufacture / Import	Toiletries excluding natural health products* and non-prescription drugs	January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018
	All toiletries	July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018
Sale	Toiletries excluding natural health products* and non-prescription drugs	July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018
	All toiletries	July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2019

\* Natural health products are defined in the Natural Health Products Regulations.

## How can you identify toiletries that contain plastic microbeads?

“Microbeads” might not be clearly identified on a product’s label, however, plastic ingredients from which microbeads are made may be listed.

Some common ingredients and words to look for to identify microbeads used in exfoliating and cleansing toiletries include:

- polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), nylon.

The prohibition applies to microbeads made from other plastics as well, including bioplastics such as:

- polylactic acid (PLA), poly-hydroxy-alkanoate (PHA) or poly-hydroxy-butyrate (PHB).

If it is not clear whether a product contains microbeads, importers and retailers should verify with the manufacturer.

## What can you do?

As a manufacturer, an importer or a retailer, it is your responsibility to know what is in the toiletries you are making or supplying. Here are suggestions to help you comply with the Regulations.

### Manufacturers

- Ensure you do not add plastic microbeads to the toiletries you are making after the prohibition dates.

### Retailers and importers

- Contact your suppliers and manufacturers.
- Look at your products on the shelves or in your shipments for clues on whether they contain plastic microbeads.
- Ensure you do not import or sell toiletries containing plastic microbeads after the prohibition starts.

## STAY INFORMED

For more information, visit:  
[www.canada.ca/microbeads-toiletries](http://www.canada.ca/microbeads-toiletries)  
or contact us by email at  
[ec.produits-products.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.produits-products.ec@canada.ca)

Please contact your regional **Environment and Climate Change Canada** office if you have any questions or concerns:

### Atlantic

Email: [ec.promoatlcompro.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.promoatlcompro.ec@canada.ca)

### Quebec

Email: [ec.lcpeinfoqc-cepainfoqc.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.lcpeinfoqc-cepainfoqc.ec@canada.ca)

### Ontario

Email: [ec.promcon-on-compro.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.promcon-on-compro.ec@canada.ca)

### Prairie and Northern

Email: [ec.promconrpn-compropnr.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.promconrpn-compropnr.ec@canada.ca)

### Pacific and Yukon

Email: [ec.microbeadspyr.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.microbeadspyr.ec@canada.ca)

For more information on natural health products, consult the **Natural Health Products Regulations**:  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2003-196/>

For more information on prescription drugs, consult the **Food and Drug Regulations**:  
[https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C\\_c.\\_870/](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.%2C_c._870/)



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