Scientists Find Microplastics Near the Top of Mount Everest

Microplastics have now been discovered at the highest and lowest points of the Earth. In 2018, microplastics were discovered at the deepest point on Earth, the Mariana Trench. Now, after analyzing samples collected by national geographic in 2019, scientists have discovered microplastic particles have been discovered near the top of Mount Everest. Samples were collected from 11 locations on the mountain ranging from 5,300 meters to 8,440 meters high.

The fibers likely came from clothing, tents, and ropes worn by mountaineers. In 2019, around 880 people climbed Everest. The highest concentration of microplastics was found near Base Camp, where people spend most of their time.

> *"It really surprised me to find microplastics in every single snow sample I analysed," said Imogen Napper, at the University of Plymouth, who led the new research. "Mount Everest is somewhere I have always considered remote and pristine. To know we are polluting near the top of the tallest mountain is a real eye-opener."*
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> *Microplastic pollution found near summit of Mount Everest*

Microplastics are tiny particles of plastic that come off plastic products. They can be carried by wind, they're in the rain, the ocean, and pretty much every surface of the Earth. At this point, they're making their way into our food and water supply, as well. We release millions of tonnes of microplastics each year. Plastics are toxic to us and the animals around us.

This study was released by the journal One Earth. Scientists found microplastics in every snow sample they analyzed, with

the most contaminated sample containing 119 particles per liter. The average was 30 particles per liter.

Plastic is in everything, thus it’s everywhere. Our clothes are made of plastic, our furniture is made of plastic, and it’s seemingly impossible to get through life without it. The cut down on plastic waste, we recommend shopping for cotton clothing as much as possible. Eat at home and cook your own food as often as you can. Look for glass whenever it’s available, and be conscious of what you consume, and how.