

## Study Reveals Paint Is the Largest Source Of Microplastics In The Ocean

*The first-ever global study of paint-related microplastics in the world's ocean reveals that almost two million tonnes are leaked every year, more than textiles, tyres, and pellets combined.*

9 FEBRUARY, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND - A report released today by [EA – Environmental Action](#), a Swiss-based scientific research firm of world-renowned experts on plastic pollution footprinting, reveals that paint could be the largest source of microplastic leakage into the world's ocean.

The *Plastic Paints the Environment* report shows that far more microplastic from paint is leaked into the ocean than from better-known contributors such as tyre-dust, pellets, and textiles. EA's findings estimate that paint contributes 1.9 million tonnes, or 58% of microplastics leaked into the ocean every year. This is significantly higher than previous historical and academic consensus, which estimated that paint contributed to between 9% and 21% of microplastics in our ocean and waterways.

Despite paint largely consisting of plastic (37% on average) and covering a wide range of everyday items including buildings, boats, cars and almost all types of infrastructure, the substance's harmful ecological effects have been difficult to accurately quantify and has been largely underreported. EA's report, the first-ever assessment of plastic paint leakage levels worldwide, reveals that, in spite of paint's irrefutable protective and decorative qualities, the substance might have a significant negative impact on the planet, marine life, and ultimately human health, if it is not disposed of and managed cleanly, safely and sustainably.

"The intention of this research is not to criticise paint, but to increase the level of knowledge and awareness of the issue, so as to pave the way towards a better-managed paint system where paint can deliver its full value without compromising the health of our environment" comments Dr. Julien Boucher, founder and director of EA - Environmental Action and author of 12 reports on plastic pollution.

Dr. Paola Paruta, Environmental Analyst at EA - Environmental Action and lead author of the report, adds: "Our report fills a key knowledge gap in the space of microplastic pollution. Our intent is to provide useful information that can enable further research and concrete actions to tackle microplastic leakage, and plastic pollution in general."

Declan Mc Adams, chairman of Pinovo, the Norwegian company that initiated the research, comments: "This report should be a wake-up call for the paint industry and their surface maintenance customers. Action from national and transnational regulators such as the European Commission and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is needed immediately, so those working with paint reconsider their paint application, maintenance and end-of-life treatment methods. It's important that

the industry finds less harmful and more sustainable alternative methods. We need a systemic change in the use and management of paint, now that these findings have shone a light on the extent of the pollution being caused.”

### **About EA - Environmental Action**

EA - Environmental Action is a mission-driven and independent research consultancy. It designs solutions and metrics to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future. EA consists of a team of passionate scientists and change-makers. A member of the European Network of Ecodesign Centres (ENEC), EA is leading the development of plastic footprint methodologies & data | [www.e-a.earth](http://www.e-a.earth)

### **About Pinovo**

Pinovo AS, is a Norwegian impact company that has developed technology for clean circular vacuum blasting of industrial and marine surfaces, that prevents paint emissions to the environment. Pinovo’s solution was the first one to be accepted on to World Economic Forum’s UpLink platform. Founded in 2009, Pinovo has been working to shine a light on the scale of global Paint Microplastic Leakage so as to drive regulatory awareness, and adoption by industry of solutions to stop Paint Microplastic Leakage.

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