

# Are microplastics pervasive in Nigerian drinking water?

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In Nigeria, about 90% of water available for drinking is sourced from boreholes, or deep, narrow wells that tap into naturally occurring underground water. A recent study in *Environmental Toxicology &*

*Chemistry* found that microplastics (MPs) are abundant in the drinking water of these boreholes.

MPs—fragments of any type of plastic less than 5 mm in length—were found in borehole water and sediments at all 11 locations investigated in Lagos Island, Nigeria. Areas with high industrial activity had higher levels of MPs than areas with less [industrial activity](#) and lower population densities.

"The rate of degradation of these polymers is exceedingly low (depending on the [environmental conditions](#) and MP type), which will result in the increased accumulation of these MPs in the borehole drinking water with time," the authors wrote. "The risks associated with MPs are predominantly caused by the combination of these materials' persistence and their potential accumulation in food chains."

**More information:** Investigating the occurrence of microplastics in borehole drinking water and sediments in Lagos, Nigeria, *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/etc.5350](https://doi.org/10.1002/etc.5350)

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