



Nano and microplastics are in the tap water we are drinking... posing a potential threat to planetary and human health

Jul 26, 2019 09:05 EDT

New study reveals increased threat from microplastics in treated water

Stockholm, Sweden, JULY 26, 2019 – [Bluewater](#), a global leader in water purification technology and solutions, today called for urgent new strategies to tackle plastics pollution after a UK university study revealed water treatment processes exacerbate break down of microplastics into nanoplastics.

The study by a team at Deakin's Institute for Frontier Materials (IFM) in conjunction with Surrey University in the UK said that the presence of nano and microplastics in water had become a major environmental challenge

posing an emerging threat to both aquatic ecosystems and human health.

“This latest study spotlights the urgent need to better understand the fate of nano/microplastics in water and its environmental and health impact,” said Bengt Rittri, the Swedish environmental entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Stockholm-based Bluewater.

Mr. Rittri said it was deeply concerning that the Surrey University research found water and wastewater treatment processes actually break microplastics down into nanoplastics, which could have potentially catastrophic consequences for the wellbeing of future generations.

Dr Ludovic Dumée, who co-led the study, noted there had been a substantial amount of work on nano and microplastics pollution but how they interact with water and wastewater treatment processes had not been fully understood.

“Our results show that water and wastewater treatment processes break microplastics down into nanoplastics,” Dr Dumée said.

“Our analysis suggests new strategies are needed to limit the number of nano and microplastics in water and wastewater to keep water quality at the required standards and reduce threats on our ecosystems.”

“The small size and high specific surface area of nano and microplastics makes them easy to ingest by living organisms where they can reach toxic levels. Their small size also makes it easy for them to travel along water and wastewater treatment processes.

Editor's notes

-The research by Dr Dumée, PhD candidate Marie Enfrin and Dr Judy Lee from Surrey University's Department of Chemical and Process Engineering was published as 'Nano and microplastics in water and wastewater treatment processes – Origin, impact and potential solutions' in *Water Research* and can be found [here](#).

-Bluewater innovates, manufactures and commercializes compact water purifiers for residential, business and public use that harness the company's patented reverse osmosis technology to remove virtually all pollutants from water, including microplastics, lead, bacteria, pesticides, medical residues, chlorine and lime-scale.

For more information, please contact David Noble, PR & Communications Director, at +44 7785 302 694 or david.noble@bluewatergroup.com

Founded 2013 in Stockholm, Sweden, Bluewater has set its sights on being the world's most planet-friendly water purification and beverage company by innovating and marketing disruptive hydration solutions for home, work, and play. Bluewater products are available globally to consumers, hotel and catering operations, event and venue organizations, and educational institutions. www.bluewatergroup.com^[IG1]

Contacts



David Noble

Press Contact

PR & Communications Director

Public relations and corporate communications

david.noble@bluewatergroup.com

+44 7785 302 694