

Directive on Microplastics

Directive on the prevention of Microplastics onboard the TUI Cruises Fleet

Definition of Microplastics

There is currently no clear definition of microplastics in science and research. In general, this term is used for all synthetic polymer particles with a size of 1 micrometer (μm) up to 5 mm, which are organic, insoluble and (biologically) non-degradable.

Effects of Microplastics

Microplastics have been found in marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems as well as in food and drinking water. Continued release contributes to permanent pollution of our ecosystems and food chains. Exposure to microplastics has been linked in laboratory studies to a range of negative (eco)toxic and physical effects on living organisms.

There is currently no conclusive study on the environmental impact of dissolved plastics. However, plastics are generally classified as poorly biodegradable compounds, with negative consequences for marine organisms and living creatures and possibly also for humans via ingestion.

Responsibility of TUI Cruises

As part of its sustainability commitment, TUI Cruises is committed to preventing and combatting microplastic pollution from various sources for its two brands, *Mein Schiff*® and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises: plastic waste, unintentional releases (e.g. release from clothing) and intentional use in products.

Actions and Preventive Measures

Both brands participate in an extensive program to reduce plastic. We are paying more attention to microplastic components in products, as our on-board wastewater treatment systems (similar to those on land) cannot filter out all microplastic components from the wastewater without leaving any residue. In order to avoid direct entry into the marine environment, we do not allow the use of products containing microplastic particles on board our two fleets.

We are aware that plastics in dissolved form are mainly used in the cosmetics industry (e.g. in personal care products and cosmetics). We would like to distance ourselves from these plastics and aim in the long term to no longer offer such products on board *Mein Schiff*® and Hapag-Lloyd Cruises in the range of products available in the onboard shops for our guests. In order to consistently implement this objective, we work closely with our onboard shop partners. Together, we develop alternative product offerings that are completely free of dissolved plastics while providing our guests with high-quality, more sustainable options.

Microplastics are used in cosmetics for various purposes, e.g. as an exfoliant or to achieve a certain texture, fragrance or color. In 2023, the EU Commission adopted an EU regulation that (gradually) bans the sale of cosmetics to which solid microplastic particles have been added. This includes cosmetics that contain microbeads, i.e. small plastic beads that are used as exfoliators. We also require our non-European service providers and partners on board to comply with this EU legislation.