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Analysis and Prevention of Microplastics Pollution in Water: Current Research and Future Directions

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Message from the Guest Editor

Microplastics (MPs) are currently found almost everywhere, and the aquatic compartment is the final sink for most of the plastic debris. The marine environment is dramatically impacted by all kind of plastic contamination, and inland waters are also considered an important target of MPs. The detected polymers are mainly those found in common-use products: polyethylene (PE)—mainly in its low-density (LDPE; bin bags, plastic wraps, shopping bags) and high-density (HDPE; shopping bags, bottle caps, detergent bottles) forms, polypropylene (PP; yoghurt packaging, straws, semi-rigid containers), polystyrene (PS; foamed food containers, plastic cutlery), polyvinyl chloride (PVC, pipes), and polyethylene terephthalate (PET; bottles, food trays). Moreover, a wide range of chemical additives (e.g., polybrominated diphenyl ethers, bisphenol A, phthalates, fatty acids) are commonly added to polymers in order to modify their physicochemical properties (such as flame resistance, color, plasticity/viscosity, and lubricity). [...]

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