

The image shows several clear plastic vials containing different types of microplastic particles. The vials are arranged in a row, with some in the foreground and others in the background. The particles vary in color (white, yellow, blue, red, orange) and shape (spherical, irregular). Some vials have white labels with black text. One label in the foreground reads "Microbeads" and another reads "Polystyrene". A test tube with a white cap is also visible on the right side, containing a white powdery substance. The background is slightly blurred, showing more vials and a wooden surface.

Microplastics: Tackling preventable sources

Microbeads Polystyrene

What do we know about microplastics?

- Sources are disparate and numerous
- Clear and direct threat to marine biodiversity
- Issue is very much in the public realm
- Tractable solutions exist

What is already being done?

- Eliminating microplastic ingredients from personal care and cosmetic products
- Wholly linear use of plastic materials
- Voluntary commitments to change made by companies
- Legislative action creates level playing field

What is already being done?

- Tackling pre-production plastic pellet loss
- Effective, multi-stakeholder engagement
- Trade associations promote Operation Clean Sweep to members
- Need to address conditions in wider plastic value chain

What more needs to be done?

- Need holistic strategy that places value on plastic *throughout* life cycle
- Investments into research, innovation and technology
- Transition to a more resourceful, less wasteful, circular economy
- Multi-stakeholder commitment to change needed
- Pragmatic approach to change – tackle the avoidable first