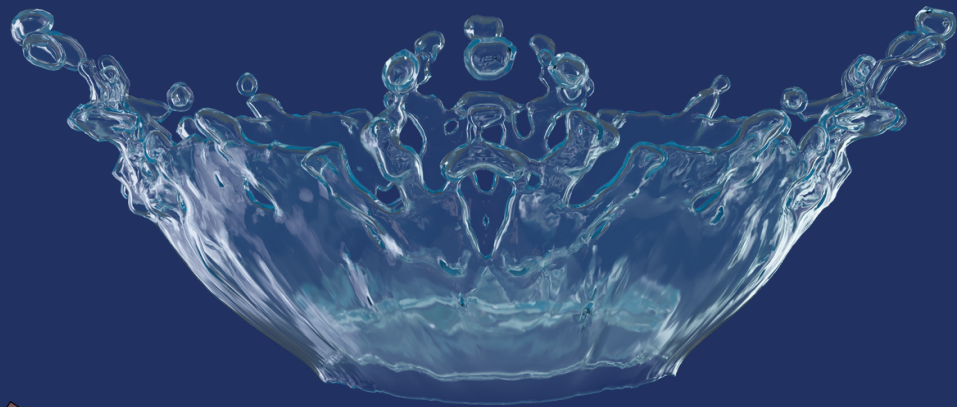




ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE USE OF CONTACT LENSES¹



CONTACT LENS DISPOSAL HABITS

21% (US) - 27% (UK) of wearers flush contact lenses down the toilet or sink.^{2,3}

Wastewater System Impact

~ 44,000kg of contact lens waste is released into the wastewater systems annually.³



Environmental Impact

Large & small fragments of contact lenses have been recovered from sewage sludge. These plastics can find their way into our food chain and harm aquatic life.^{4,5,6}

Correct Waste Disposal



	Household Recycling System	Specialist Recycling (TerraCycle®)	Household Waste
Contact lens/solution packaging (cardboard boxes/carton)			
Contact lens tray, foils & lenses themselves *			
Solution bottle			
Contact lens solution lids, tamper evidence rings, stoppers, and contact lens cases			

*not all municipal waste managements are able to process/sort these items, please check first & resort to local recycling specialist if required



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 2. Optical Express. 97% of Contact Lens Users Are Damaging the Environment. <https://www.opticalexpress.co.uk/magazine/article/97-of-contact-lens-users-are-damaging-the-environment>. Accessed: 12 February 2023.
 3. Rolsky C, et al. Nationwide Mass Inventory and Degradation Assessment of Plastic Contact Lenses in US Wastewater. Environmental Science & Technology. 2020;54:12102-8.
 4. Chia J, et al. Detection of the Antimicrobials Triclocarban and Triclosan in Agricultural Soils Following Land Application of Municipal Biosolids. Water Research. 2009;43:2522-30.
 5. Cole M, et al. Microplastics as Contaminants in the Marine Environment: A Review. Mar Pollut Bull. 2011;62:2388-97.
 6. Nelms SE, et al. Microplastics in Marine Mammals Stranded around the British Coast: Ubiquitous but Transitory? Scientific Reports. 2019;9:1075.