

Nurdle Collection Information Sheet

What is a nurdle?

Nurdles are pre-production plastic beads (they look like tiny hailstones) used in the manufacturing of everyday plastic goods and products.



How to collect and what to do with them:

Collection of nurdles can be undertaken by: sieving areas of sand; collecting sand in buckets of water and waiting for the nurdles to float; or by shaking clumps of seaweed over a bucket or sieve.

- Disposal: All nurdles collected need to be disposed of at one of the designated collection points. This is to gather information about the nurdles such as location, quantities and collection date. Place the nurdles into the zip-lock bags provided at the collection points and record the date and location of collection on the bag.
- Disposal points are located at Shelly Beach, Hopkins River Milk Bar, the Pavilion near the Breakwater, Warrnambool Surf Life Saving Club, Levys Beach car park, Killarney toilet block, Port Fairy Surf Club, Moyne Shire Office - Port Fairy, Lindsay Street Yambuk (Mat King's) or staging locations when setup.
- Any observations of note including nurdle densities or locations can be passed onto field coordinator at staging location or email nurdleresponse@wannonwater.com.au.

Working around Hooded Plover nest areas:

To get an update on the nesting activity at locations, call Robyn Bush of Parks Victoria on 0403 261 145 to determine if there are nest sites on the beach (usually marked by signage and fencing) and whether they are "active" (i.e. presently or imminently have chicks or eggs)

- Do not go inside the fenced area – there is a real risk of treading on nests, eggs and chicks. If nurdles are within the fenced areas a special activity under the guidance of experienced Hooded Plover monitors will be conducted to remove these.
- For sites with chicks, which move about the beach well beyond the fenced area, an experienced Hooded Plover monitor needs to determine the location of the family of birds immediately before the clean-up.
- The 'disturbance zone' for Hooded Plovers is the area in front of the nest sites and 100m either side. Do not set up marquees, tents, tables, bases of operation, rest points, sit, loiter, etc in the 'disturbance zone'
- Do not use machinery in the 'disturbance zone' hand sieve instead.
- Limit time working in the 'disturbance zone' to 20 minutes per hour if temperature is less than 25 degrees or 10 minutes per hour if greater than 25 degrees. Returning to the area after a break of 40-50 minutes to allow birds time for incubation/brooding duties.

For information about sick or dead wildlife please refer to the '[Wildlife Procedure in Nurdle Zone](#)' available on the Wannon Water [website](#).