

Glitter: people are fooled by the sinister sparkles. Here's what this means for the planet

In every celebration these flakes penetrate every corner of clean ups. Why can't people see the ugly side of glitter?

Celebrations are a natural part of life. I love partying with family and friends on any occasion. I adore the food, the people, the music, and most of all, the decorations. However, there is one decoration that I cannot stand. As you have surely guessed by this article's title: I *hate* glitter.

If you'll indulge my cheesy Star Wars quote, glitter is 'coarse and rough and irritating. And it gets everywhere.' Okay, the first two may not be so accurate, but glitter is certainly irritating and gets absolutely everywhere. As anyone who so much as even glanced at a packet of glitter knows, the small plastic specks have a tendency to stick to any and all objects for kilometres around. This means that as soon as a glitter packet is opened, the frustrating flakes will be found for weeks on end, something which causes me great irritation.

This is not the only problem with glitter. Yes, I have a personal gripe with glitter, but by virtue of their dazzling appearance, people are tricked into a false sense of security. As anyone who has done an arts-and-crafts project will confess, that project will eventually end up in the bin. This is by far, the worst thing that could happen. No matter how much activists have protested, landfill sites are still open to the air, letting in wind and rain. This fact is the most pressing, as rainwater washes the tiny particles of glitter out of landfill, and as a single geography lesson will undoubtedly teach you, all water ends up in the sea.

You may be thinking, 'so what? I don't see what some tiny flakes of shiny plastic in the ocean have to do with me.' However, [according to marine biologists](#), the 'small' amount of glitter that ends up in the ocean is closer to eight million tonnes of the stuff. Every day. This is a much larger problem than anyone cares to admit. I am tired of people buying glitter to look nice, when the planet's wellbeing is at stake. All around me, people claim to care about the environment and support the climate protests spearheaded by Greta Thunberg's efforts, yet even the people closest to me, speak clearly through their lack of action. They do not care. Yet the worst thing about this is that this issue affects them – and you – directly.

As glitter ends up in the ocean, fish, mistaking the poisonous plastic for promising plankton, eat and eat, attempting to satiate their hunger with this despicable 'food', which eventually leads to their demise. Glitter's plastic composition is deadly to the fish who eat it, and this toxicity passes along the entire food chain, which includes humans. The tarnished fish, being slower than normal due to being poisoned by glitter, are easy targets for the fishing industry, who fill our supermarkets. That's right, the fish you eat and buy could very well contain decomposed microplastics, a haunting fact in the age of clean eating, as people cannot trust the 'fresh fish' promised by retailers. [Only 12% of Britain never eats fish](#), so the majority who do are deeply affected by this betrayal.

Even if you don't eat fish and are not informed about the plastic crisis, glitter's oceanic infiltration should absolutely concern you. Fish are food for many creatures. If fish become poisoned, then their predators become contaminated, as do their predators, leading to a mass extinction of many species, harming the world's precious biodiversity. Let me remind you, dear reader, you are part of that world. Anything that affects the world also affects you.

It's utterly infuriating. All I ask is that you consider the effects buying glitter has on our precious but fragile planet. Keep it well out of the oceans. Keep it far away from animals' reach. Keep it out of production. Other biodegradable alternatives are just as visually appealing as glitter, and a hundred times more environmentally friendly. So, may I ask one last time: STOP USING GLITTER!