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Title: Problematic Polystyrene



Styrofoam cup floating in a waterway at Ambury Regional Park in Auckland.

Caption:

Styrofoam (also called polystyrene), like the cup displayed in this photo, is a huge environmental issue. Polystyrene is typically single-use and breaks up easily into microplastics, which are near impossible to remove from the world's waterways. The small particles also get swallowed by marine animals, causing them to die a very painful death because of starvation or from a clogged digestive system. Over 80% of marine debris is accumulated from land-litter that flows into our waterways by getting blown by wind or through storm-water drains. Avoiding single-use plastic like styrofoam is a way we can aim for a cleaner planet.