



## How to do a Nurdle Hunt

Hunting for nurdles is fun and taking part is really easy! By taking part you are joining a global movement helping to end plastic pellet pollution. All you need to do is tell us how many nurdles you found, where you found them, how long you were hunting and how many people took part. Follow these simple steps:

- 1 Head to your chosen location between **1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October**
- 2 Count and record number of nurdles
- 3 Record the number of people hunting
- 4 Record how long you were hunting (minimum 10 minutes)
- 5 Submit data online at [www.nurdlehunt.org.uk](http://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk)

**Note:** We encourage you to submit your findings even if you don't find any nurdles.

### Safety First

Nurdle hunting can be a very safe activity but if you're nurdle hunting at the beach or on a river don't ever underestimate tides and currents. Follow these helpful tips to stay safe:



- If you're going alone or in small groups, tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- If you're planning a hunt in an area you haven't been to before, visit the area before your hunt and make sure you can access it safely. Be aware of local wildlife, protected areas and access rights (if required in your Country).
- Check the tide times so you don't get caught out or cut off. The best time to search for nurdles is after high tide.
- Check the weather in advance of your nurdle hunt and prepare appropriately.
- If you're organising a group event, choose an accessible meeting place (somewhere close to public transport links and close to your hunt location).

**Remember:** taking part is voluntary and entirely at your own risk. We can't take responsibility for your safety, but we want to help you keep safe as possible!

Consider wearing gloves if you want to collect the nurdles! Credit: Parley for the oceans.

### Step by step guide

Read the steps below or [check out our video](#) for a more in-depth run through of what you need to do.

## Before you start

1. Consider any equipment you might need. A suggested [equipment list is on page 4](#) of this document.
2. Check the tide times and head to your chosen location after high tide.
3. Find the tideline (usually a line of seaweed and other debris left over from the last high tide see figure 1). **Nurdles will often be in the most recent tideline and/or in vegetation.**
4. Scout out the section of land you want to survey – you don't need to survey the whole area; you can survey as much or as little as you want! But **we ask you to nurdle hunt for a minimum of 10 minutes.**
5. Using our [recording sheet](#), fill in:
  - Number of volunteers taking part
  - Start time / Date
  - Location



Fig 1. Nurdles in strandline (Image Credit: Jace Tunnell, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA.)

## Now you're ready

6. Get nurdle hunting - walk the length of your chosen area and look for nurdles. **Remember nurdles are very small and sometimes tricky to see, so take your time and get close to the ground.**
7. Use our recording sheet to tally the nurdles you find. If there are too many nurdles to count, please visually estimate the amount you have found. One way to do this is to count what you find in a 1m square and multiply that by the length of the patch of nurdles. Remember our maximum category to report is >1000 nurdles, but if you find more than that, please include your estimate in the 'any other information' box. **If you do find nurdles in high amounts (1000+) please also report this pollution to your local environment agency.**

## Remember:

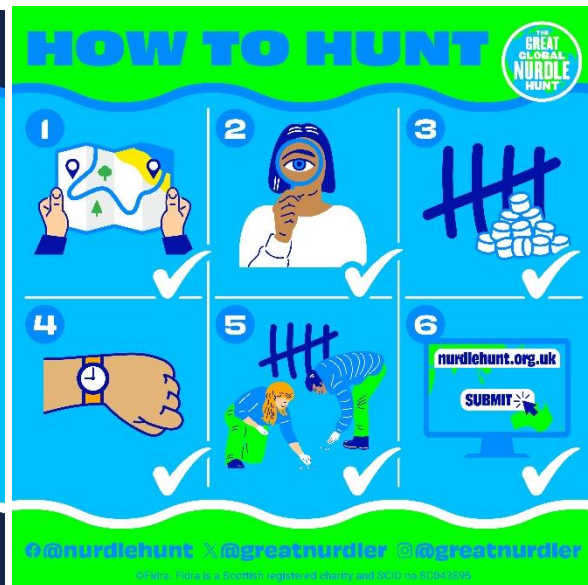
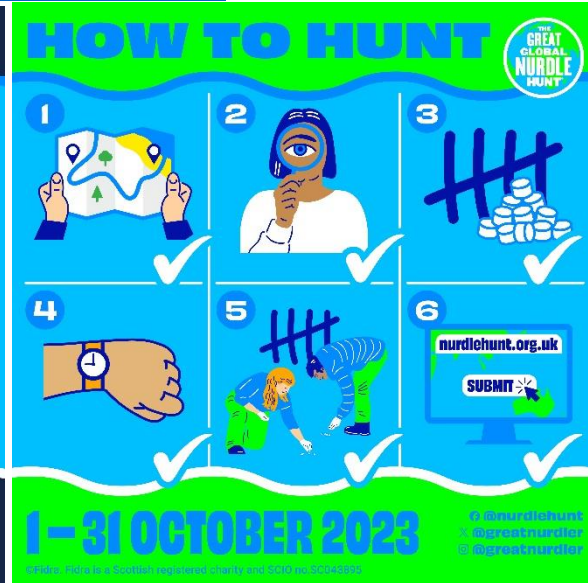
8. **Take photos and videos!** Share your story on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and/or our [Facebook page](#). See our [social media toolkit](#) for guidance.
9. Please also remember – **you don't have to collect the nurdles you find. However artists and researchers need nurdles so please consider sending them on.** You just have to tell us the number of nurdles you find. Nurdles adsorb toxic pollutants from the ocean. So, if you do choose to collect and remove them, please make sure you use appropriate equipment or protective clothing, refer to our [equipment list](#) for suggestions on what to use. Please also read [what to do with your collected nurdles](#).

## When finished:

10. Record the time you finished your survey and how long you hunted
11. Record the total number of nurdles found and number of volunteers
12. **Wash your hands**
13. **Submit your results** to our website here: <https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/take-part/submit-your-finds.html>

**DEADLINE: Please submit all results by 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**

How to Hunt Asset: [Dated versions](#) and [undated versions](#)



## More top tips!

### WHERE TO LOOK

**Tide line:** The sea washes all sorts of marine debris up onto the shore. Nurdles are washed up with them onto the high tide mark where they get trapped in the tide line, this is usually the best place to start looking.

**Paths:** Look on sheltered tracks and paths at the edge of the beaches and rivers. This is where nurdles could have been blown or swept to during very high tides. (See figure 2).

**Headlands:** Beach litter often accumulates near the headlands of bays or towards a corner of a bay. (See figure 3)





Fig 2: Nurdles found on a path (image credit: Anne Sayer, Hayling Island, Southampton)

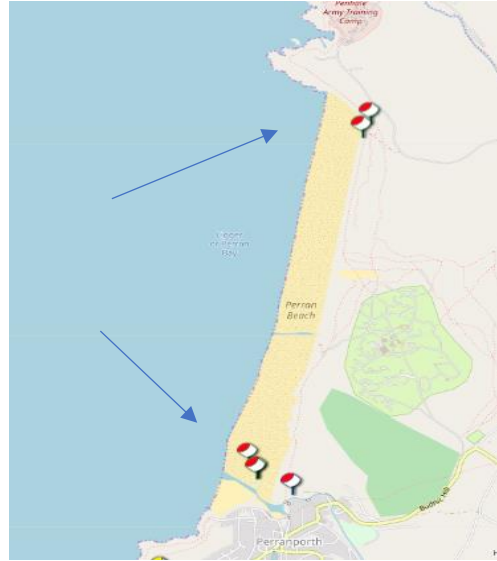


Fig. 3 Nurdles collecting at the edge of a bay or near the headland. Nurdle submissions shown on The Great Nurdle Hunt's [Nurdle Map](#).

**Amongst other plastic:** Search for nurdles amongst other pieces of plastic on the beach.

**Vegetation:** Nurdles often get caught in the base of the grasses and rocks.

## KNOW YOUR NURDLES

Nurdles are hard to spot! They are very small, and their colour often blends in with the sand or can be covered up by seaweed, shells and blades of grass. So, when on your hunt slow down and get close to the ground. Take your time.

**Colour:** Nurdles can vary in colour from black to blue, yellow to white. Often pellets are clear or white but they become yellow over time, so keep your eyes peeled for all different types.

**Size and Shape:** Between 2-5mm in diameter, often shaped like a lentil. The image below shows the variation in different types of nurdles.



Download our [Nurdle ID Chart](#) to help separate true nurdles from other beach debris.

## EQUIPMENT LIST (suggested)

If you're planning to handle or collect nurdles, below is a suggested kit list:



Gloves and container used by a nurdle hunter Image Credit: Extinction rebellion Romsey – Nurdles, Chessel Bay Nature Reserve

- Hand sanitizer.
- Gloves.
- Tweezers.
- Sieve – to separate nurdles from the sand.
- Bucket/heavy duty bin bags – to collect nurdles and other rubbish or marine debris.
- Old jam jar (to keep the nurdles you find and spreading the word about plastic pellet pollution).

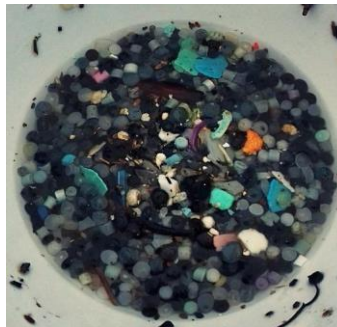
**Note:** we realise that we have suggested several plastic items. If you already own alternative items, we don't recommend purchasing new items for a single event. Always reuse or borrow equipment where possible.



## METHODS OF REMOVAL

**Sieves:** Sieves of all shapes and sizes can be useful to filter sediments to find nurdles.

**Flotation:** Many nurdles and microplastic will float in water, so a quick way to find them is to scoop up the sediment and put it in a bucket of water, the plastic should float to the top.



Floating nurdles in a bucket of water



A mesh bin can be used for large scale removal

## WHAT TO DO WITH COLLECTED NURDLES

If you do choose to remove nurdles, here is what you can do with them:

- **Put them on display** – store your nurdles in a jar and use them to raise awareness. Nurdles are easier to explain to people when you have a good example!
- **Contribute to science** – some scientists in Japan have been studying toxic chemicals associated with nurdles. You can send samples of your pellets to their lab to contribute to this work. Find out more – [www.pelletwatch.org](http://www.pelletwatch.org). In addition to this, [a research group in Swansea](#) need nurdles too. Please check the requirements of how these labs want nurdles to be handled before sending them directly.
- **Send to an artist** – Check out artists in your local area/country who may do work with nurdles for raising awareness about plastic pollution. We can recommend sending your nurdles to Maarten Vanden Eynde [latest exhibition in the UK](#). Maarten Vanden Eynde's is creating an art project tackling plastic nurdles pollution .
- **Bin securely** – Unfortunately nurdles can't be recycled so if you do decide to throw them away, sometimes the best option is to fill something sturdy with a lid so they can't escape. Or put them in multiple plastic bags (so the bag doesn't split and spill nurdles into the environment on the way to landfill). Not ideal, we know, but that's why we want to [stop them entering our oceans in the first place](#).