

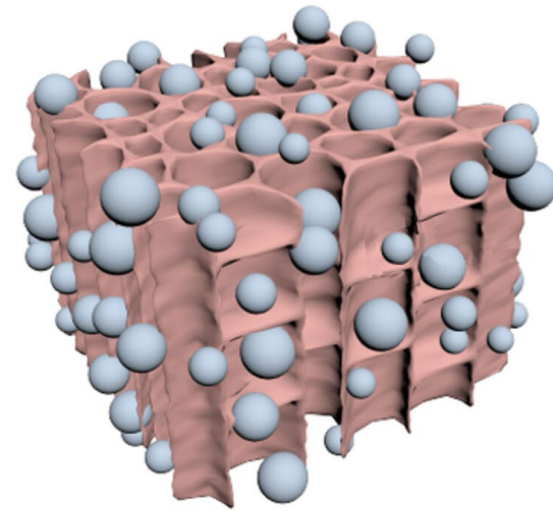


Foam removes microplastics from water

Slide by Neil Goalby. Available from rsc.li/42lkrbB

Microplastic pollution is worsening on land and in water. Scientists have responded by creating a foam that can remove up to 99.9% of microplastics from water.

The foam is an absorbent material made from cellulose and chitin. The cellulose comes from cotton and chitin from squid. The foam has a porous structure with a negatively and positively charged surface. This allows intermolecular forces to trap the plastics in the foam. The foam is reusable and effective after multiple uses.



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The sustainable, polymer foam can trap 99.9% of microplastics

Questions

1. What is microplastic pollution?
2. Name the monomer that makes up the polymer cellulose.
3. Suggest why having a porous structure helps the foam remove the plastics.