

**Table S3. Buoyancy behavior of plastic particles in freshwater and seawater.**

The majority of product content was composed of a groundmass of white amorphous particles, with all products except product 2 containing a small proportion of larger, colored spheres with distinct buoyancy behavior. Qualitative observations of differences in buoyancy are noted in the comment section.

| Product ID | Company    | Buoyancy   |          |            |          | Comments*   |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|---|
|            |            | Freshwater |          | Saltwater  |          |   |
|            |            | Groundmass | Spheres  | Groundmass | Spheres  |   |
| 1          | Nivea      | positive   | positive | positive   | positive | Blue spheres collect immediately at the surface; the majority** of white particles collect at surface within 30 seconds   |
| 2          | Neutrogena | positive   | na       | positive   | na       | White groundmass only, the majority** of plastic particles collect at surface within 2 minutes  |
| 3          | Clearasil  | positive   | negative | positive   | positive | In freshwater blue spheres seem neutral at first and sink slowly within 24 hrs; in saltwater blue spheres rise slowly to surface within 24 hours; the majority** of white particles collect at surface within 2 minutes |
| 4          | Garnier    | positive   | positive | positive   | positive | Dark blue spheres collect immediately at surface; the majority** of light blue and white particles show similar buoyancy and collect at surface within 60 seconds   |
| 5          | Neutrogena | positive   | positive | positive   | positive | Green spheres rise immediately to surface; the majority** of white plastic particles collect at surface within 60 seconds   |
| 6          | Essence    | positive   | positive | positive   | positive | Blue spheres rise immediately to surface; the majority** of white plastic particles collect at surface within 90 seconds  |

\*for all products no particles are visible in suspension after 24 hours and have collected either at the surface (product 1-6) or at the bottom (blue spheres product 3, freshwater)

\*\*the majority means that only very few particles were still visible in suspension and the large amount of particles had formed a layer of microplastic at the surface

