



The 5 Gyres

The ocean has a large system of circular currents formed by global wind patterns and the forces created by the Earth's rotation.

We call them 'gyres' and there are five main gyres - the North Atlantic Gyre, the South Atlantic Gyre, the South Pacific Gyre, The North Pacific Gyre and the Indian Ocean Gyre.

Each of them acts like a slow moving whirlpool which means most of the plastic floating in our ocean will end up in one of the gyres.

The most famous gyre is the North Pacific Gyre. It's been nicknamed 'The Great Pacific Garbage Patch' because it has the highest concentration of plastic waste.

There have been many attempts to try and clean up the gyres, including the famous Ocean Cleanup project but scientists doubt whether it's possible to remove all the plastic because the areas are so large and most of the plastic has broken down into tiny pieces called 'micro-plastics'.

