

MICROPLASTICS FROM TIRE WEAR – APPROACHES FOR RETENTION AND ANALYSIS

Markus Knefel¹, Dominik Herper¹

¹GKD - Gebr. Kufferath AG

Plastics and their emission into the environment are one of the global challenges humanity is facing in our current century. Especially small polymer particles in the environment, known as microplastics, have caught the attention of politics, scientists and the public alike. One of the main sources of microplastics is traffic. The use of synthetic rubber tires is essential for all kinds of land based mobility. Unfortunately tires wear during their usage. The particles generated in this wearing process are considered to be microplastics. They are emitted into the environment and the majority is washed away by rain ending up in sewer systems. Down to the present day it is unknown, what tire wear particles look like and what sizes or even particle size distributions they show. In the research project RAU the partners aim at finding out about these uncertainties.