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**Transcript:**

The **clean-up operation** begins.

Millions of pellets which are used to make plastic have been **washed up** on Hong Kong's beaches, following the worst typhoon in 13 years.

Environmentalists are concerned that the pellets will absorb dangerous **toxins**, which could enter the **food chain**.

Several hundred volunteers turned up to try and remove the **translucent** pellets, but the beaches could still take months to clean

**Vocabulary:**

**clean-up operation**

a project to tidy up an area

**washed up**

appeared on a beach

**toxins**

dangerous chemicals

**food chain**

a group of organisms that feed off one another

**translucent**

semi-transparent

**Watch the video online: Hong Kong's clean-up operation** <http://bbc.in/MKR8GE>

### Exercise:

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from BBC news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

### **clean-up / washed up / toxins / food chain / translucent**

1. A dead humpback whale has been \_\_\_\_\_ in a Australian ocean swimming pool, surprising morning swimmers and causing a major problem for authorities who must remove it.
2. Cigarette butts become trapped between paving stones and are then washed into drains and can cause blockages which in turn can lead to flooding issues. They also leak \_\_\_\_\_ that contaminate water and can harm marine life.
3. A new inflatable and \_\_\_\_\_ bubble-shaped hotel has appeared on the shores of the Baltic sea, some 150 kilometres south of the Estonian capital Tallinn.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is continuing in the Borders town of Jedburgh after flooding caused by heavy rain. The town was struck by flash flooding on Sunday after the main streets turned into a river during a two hour downpour.
5. Two major retailers in South Korea announced on Wednesday that they were suspending US beef sales. US Trade Representative Ron Kirk has urged Indonesia to lift the ban, saying that there is no evidence that the US \_\_\_\_\_ has been tainted.

**Answers:**

1. A dead humpback whale has been **washed up** in an Australian ocean swimming pool, surprising morning swimmers and causing a major problem for authorities who must remove it.

**Source:** Humpback whale washes up in Sydney pool

<http://bbc.in/NIFuAk>

2. Cigarette butts become trapped between paving stones and are then washed into drains and can cause blockages which in turn can lead to flooding issues. They also leak **toxins** that contaminate water and can harm marine life.

**Source:** 'Rise' in smoking-related litter on Highland streets

<http://bbc.in/QvcXyy>

3. A new inflatable and **translucent** bubble-shaped hotel has appeared on the shores of the Baltic sea, some 150 kilometres south of the Estonian capital Tallinn.

**Source:** Inside Estonia's see-through inflatable bubble hotel

<http://bbc.in/NauSt7>

4. A **clean-up** is continuing in the Borders town of Jedburgh after flooding caused by heavy rain. The town was struck by flash flooding on Sunday after the main streets turned into a river during a two hour downpour.

**Source:** Jedburgh tries to get back to business after the floods

<http://bbc.in/OFr1kE>

5. Two major retailers in South Korea announced on Wednesday that they were suspending US beef sales. US Trade Representative Ron Kirk has urged Indonesia to lift the ban, saying that there is no evidence that the US **food chain** has been tainted.

**Source:** Indonesia bans some US beef imports after mad cow case

<http://bbc.in/Ik17Eb5>