



What to do about Plastics in our Waterways.

What's the Problem?



There are many reasons why plastics are bad for Earth. Thousands of manmade items are made from plastic. Many of them are like water bottles that we use only once. We don't need to use many of these products

- ★ 1. Pollution-creating oil must be drilled and refined to be used in plastics. The process of making plastics in factories often causes major pollution problems that fill the air and water with toxic chemicals. Also, factories often leak plastic pellets into waterways. Help stop the building of more factories that produce plastic by [clicking here](#).
- ★ 2. Hundreds of species of animals call waterways their home. Single-use plastic bags, straws, bottles, plate utensils, and more float, blow, and spill into oceans, lakes, wetlands, and rivers creating dangerous pollution for these water creatures. Sea animals often get tangled in plastics or plastic fishing nets that are left by commercial fishing boats. Beaches and waters become covered with plastic pollution. Learn more at [NRDC](#).
- ★ 3. Plastic doesn't compost or dissolve in water. It remains for hundreds of years. Often large pieces of plastic break apart and fill the waters with tiny pieces call microplastics that water animals eat and become sick or die. Check out the [National Ocean Service](#) to learn more. Read about the *Great Garbage patch* on the next page.

Are we plastic people?

No! We don't need to be. Our lives are filled with plastic for too many uses that we don't really need. There are other Earth-safe ways to live. Start with limiting plastic straws or bottles.



