

# Reasons Stores Should Reduce Their Use of Plastic

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Have you ever thought about where plastic waste goes to? Only 9% goes to landfill, but the rest goes to the ocean. Imagine an ocean full of plastic waste. The sky and our planet won't be blue anymore. This issue is important because according to [theworldcounts.com](http://theworldcounts.com), about 160,000 plastic bags are used every second. So that means that about 5,045,760,000,000 plastic bags will be used every year! So that's why I believe that stores should reduce their use of plastic because it harms the environment, the ocean and the food chain. Others may think stores should use plastic because it's a cheap material and good for life. But there are very dangerous results to us when we use plastic that we do not want to face. Throughout this text, I hope to persuade you to think that stores should reduce their use of plastic by showing you reasons why stores should reduce their use of plastic.

One reason that stores should reduce their use of plastic is because it harms the environment by using up Earth's natural resources. [bpf.co.uk](http://bpf.co.uk), the British Plastic Federation debates "Plastic will increase our Greenhouse gas emissions when used.", so they are saying that plastic is good for the environment and should be consumed in stores. But, when plastic factories make plastic, they use oil the most. According to [fooddemocracy.wordpress.com](http://fooddemocracy.wordpress.com), more than 1.6 billion gallons of oil are used each year for plastic bags. Also, according to [forbes.com](http://forbes.com), a million plastic bottles are thrown away every minute, and only 9% of the million is recyclable. And according to [grist.org](http://grist.org), 4% of the world's yearly oil production of some 84.5M barrels per day is used as feedstock for plastic. Another 4 percent is needed to give the energy to transform the feedstock to plastic and about 1.78 kilograms of petroleum feedstock is needed to make a kilogram of polystyrene plastic. So when plastic waste is created, oil gets thrown away with the plastic since plastic uses oil, so the plastic waste are wasting oil, 91% of the 1.6 billion gallons.



Another reason stores should reduce their use of plastic is because plastic pollutes the ocean. [bpf.co.uk](http://bpf.co.uk) also debates about plastic that “Single-use plastic bags provide hygienic ways to purchase food and reduce plastic waste.” but on the ocean’s side, it might have said millions of words to us if it had a mouth. Plastic may be hygienic for our use, but not for the ocean. Like what I said at the beginning, only 9% of plastic goes to landfill, but the rest goes to the ocean. According to [wonderopolis.org](http://wonderopolis.org), plastic takes hundreds or thousands of years to biodegrade. Because of the long process of biodegradation of plastic, they can last in oceans for a very long time until it finally disappears. While the process of plastic biodegradation, Albatrosses sometimes get stuck in the ocean because of the plastic waste. Also, according to [weforum.org](http://weforum.org), eight million metric tons of our plastic waste enter the ocean from land each year. This means about 136 million metric tons of plastic waste has entered our oceans from 2000 to 2017. And according to [biologicaldiversity.org](http://biologicaldiversity.org), about 10 metric tons of plastic like grocery bags, straws and soda bottles are dumped into the Pacific Ocean every day. Right now, plastic makes up about 40 percent of the world’s ocean surfaces. Thousands of seabirds and sea turtles, seals and other marine mammals are killed each year after eating plastic or getting tangled and those are one of the 300 species eat and get caught in plastic litter. Today about 15 to 51 trillion pieces of plastic are in the world’s oceans. Fish in the North Pacific Ocean eats 12,000 to 24,000 tons of plastic every year.



Lastly, stores should reduce their use of plastic because plastic harms the food chain. Marine creatures mistake plastic as food, such as Nurdles. Nurdles is a type of plastic and microplastic, and they soak up toxic chemicals. When humans eat sea creatures, the sea creatures could have eaten plastic or smaller



sea creatures that also ate plastic. According to theguardian.com, Shellfish likers are eating up to 11,000 plastic fragments in their seafood each year. These findings affect all Europeans. Plastic was found in a third of fish caught in the UK, including cod, haddock, mackerel and shellfish. Plastic-contaminated (polluted) fish and shellfish has been found everywhere in the world.

If we use less plastic, we can solve all of our problems with plastic. Imagine the oceans gets filled with plastic waste with 5,045,760,000,000 plastic bags and makes a new continent of plastic waste, the skies gets filled with pollution because oil is used for plastic and not be able to eat fish due to the disruption in the food chain. We would not be able to see or even go to the beach and rivers. We won't be able to eat fish. The sky may not be blue anymore, like I said. Using the least amount of plastic is the best way to defend and prevent ourselves from these problems striking at us. The next time you really have to use plastic, I consider using recyclable plastic can reduce plastic waste when you use it.

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