



According to a recent National Geographic study, of the 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic waste that the world has generated since the middle of the last century, we've managed to recycle only about 9% of it. The rest of it gets trashed & ultimately ends up in our landfills or our oceans. Every year, we throw enough plastic away to circle the earth four times. To make matters worse, on January 1 of 2018, China, the world's largest importer of international plastic waste, stopped accepting US shipments. Action needs to be taken now.

# PLASTICS USE

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## Types of Single-Use Plastic

- Polyethylene terephthalate (**PET**)
  - water bottles, dispensing containers, cookie trays
- High-Density Polyethylene (**HDPE**)
  - shampoo bottles, milk bottles, ice cream containers
- Low-Density Polyethylene (**LDPE**)
  - plastic bags, containers, food packaging film
- Polypropylene (**PP**)
  - potato chip bags, microwave dishes, bottle caps
- Polystyrene (**PS**)
  - cutlery, plates, cups
- Expanded Polystyrene (**EPS**)
  - protective packaging, hot drink cups

## Top 10 Items Polluting Oceans

1. Cigarettes\*
  2. Food wrappers/containers\*
  3. Plastic beverage bottles\*
  4. Plastic bags\*
  5. Caps/lids\*
  6. Cups, plates, cutlery\*
  7. Straws/stirrers\*
  8. Glass beverage bottles
  9. Beverage cans
  10. Paper bags
- \*contain plastic

## Decomposition Rates

- Cigarette butt - 5 yrs
- Plastic bag - 20 yrs
- Plastic beverage holder (6-rings) - 400 yrs
- Disposable diaper - 450 yrs
- Plastic bottle - 450 yrs
- Fishing line - 600 years

## Top Plastic Waste Generators

- China - 59 mill. tons/yr
- United States - 37 mill. tons/yr
- Germany - 14 mill. tons/yr
- Egypt - 5 mill. tons/yr
- India - 4 mill. tons/yr