



Protect the Ocean... Time is Running Out!



About 8 million tons of plastic enters the ocean every year. Part of this accumulates in 5 areas where the currents converge. At least 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic are currently in the oceans. It is a major threath to seabirds, turtles and marine mammals.

Plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose. In the meantime, it doesn't break down, it simply breaks apart into smaller and smaller pieces.



How Long Does Plastic Take to Break Down?

The Estimated Decomposition Rate of Plastics in Our Oceans

Soda Bottle

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)



450-1,000 years

Plastic Grocery Bag

High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)



10-100 years

Detergent Bottle

High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)



500-1,000 years

PRACTICAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MAKE OUR OCEANS PLASTIC-FREE (FOREVER!)



REDUCE!

Many of the most commonly disposed of plastic products have viable alternatives. Always ask yourself if you can get the same product without consuming plastic before you buy something.



REFUSE!

Much of the most frequently discarded plastic items, with the shortest lifecycles, are those given to us for free, such as plastic straws, grocery bags, and plastic utensils. All you have to do to eliminate this source of plastic pollution is to simply refuse to accept these items.



REUSE!

You can get creative and reuse items for secondary purposes. You can also purchase specialty items, such as canvas shopping bags, that replace single use plastics and can safely be used again and again.



RECYCLE!

This is not the best way to combat plastic pollution, but it is arguably the easiest way to reduce your household plastic waste. Look up your local council's recycling policy, and set aside a special area for recycling plastics in your home.



REMOVE!

Plastic/litter clean-ups are great community events that let you meet the people who live around you while cleaning up your local community at the same time.

New technologies are being invented as we speak to collect the plastics in the world's oceans. New products are being created to take advantage of plastics collected from the environment and recycled.

