

## Plastic waste

Plastic waste is a global problem that refers to the accumulation of plastic objects and particles in the environment.

### Examples

- **Cigarette butts:** The most common type of plastic waste, with filters containing tiny plastic fibers
- **Food wrappers:** A common type of plastic waste
- **Plastic bottles and caps:** A common type of plastic waste
- **Plastic bags:** A common type of plastic waste
- **Plastic straws and stirrers:** A common type of plastic waste
- **Cotton bud sticks:** A type of single-use plastic
- **Cutlery, plates, and cups:** A type of single-use plastic
- **Balloons and sticks for balloons:** A type of single-use plastic
- **Micro-plastics:** Small pieces of plastic that come from things like synthetic clothing and glitter

### Causes of plastic pollution

- **Single-use products:** Items like bottles, bags, cups, and straws are often thrown away after a single use, contributing to plastic pollution.
- **Unsustainable production:** The production of plastic without regard to the environment can lead to a large amount of plastic waste.
- **Inadequate waste management:** In many areas, there is not enough infra-structure to manage plastic waste.
- **Open burning:** Burning plastic releases toxic substances into the air.
- **Food waste:** Consumers throw away a lot of food that could be eaten, contributing to plastic pollution.
- **Micro-plastics:** Personal care products and other items can release micro-plastics into the environment.
- **Tyre abrasion:** Tyres wearing down can release plastic into the environment.

- **Construction:** Construction activities can release plastic into the environment.
- **Agriculture:** The use of fertilizers in crop production can release greenhouse gases.

### **Harmful effects of plastics**

- Kills Animals.
- Litters the landscape.
- Non-Biodegradable.
- Plastic bags block drains.
- Plastic releases toxic when burned.
- Plastic pollutes soil.
- Plastic pollutes ocean.
- Petroleum is required to produce plastic bags.

### **Plastic waste management**

Plastic waste management is the collection, processing, and disposal of plastic waste. It is a complex issue that involves a variety of stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and individuals

### **Steps manage plastic waste**

- **Reduce your use of plastic.** One of the best ways to reduce plastic waste is to reduce your use of plastic in the first place. This means choosing products that are made from sustainable materials, such as paper or glass, and avoiding products that are packaged in plastic.
- **Recycle plastic whenever possible.** When you do use plastic, make sure to recycle it whenever possible. Recycling plastic helps to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in our landfills and oceans.
- **Dispose of plastic properly.** When you dispose of plastic, make sure to do it properly. This means putting it in the recycling bin or taking it to a hazardous waste disposal facility.

- **Support businesses** that are working to reduce plastic pollution. There are a number of businesses that are working to reduce their plastic footprint. By supporting these businesses, you can help to make a difference.
- Get involved in **your community**. There are a number of ways to get involved in your community to help fight plastic pollution. You can volunteer for a beach cleanup, start a community compost program, or even start your own business that helps to reduce plastic pollution.

