

MOTHER EARTH Is Asking Us For Help! *Alternatives to Plastic Use*

What's the issue?

As evidence has mounted concerning the danger of single-use plastics to health and the environment, some new alternatives and remedies are emerging:



- Almost all plastics today are man-made and derived from fossil fuels, including crude oil and natural gas. Scientists have also created new forms of plastics from renewable materials—known as biopolymers or bioplastics.
- Bioplastics are made from natural sources, including vegetable fats/oils, corn starch, straw, wood chips, and even food waste. While bioplastics are typically considered more environmentally friendly than traditional plastics, they aren't a catch-all solution. Many still end up in landfills and as more come on the market, there are issues with land use, proper disposal, and toxicity.
- Researchers are currently working on bioplastics that are compostable, degradable in water (should they end up in the ocean), and nontoxic.
- Most publicity regarding plastics are the disposal issues but almost all commercially available plastics tested leached synthetic estrogens—even when the plastics weren't exposed to conditions known to unlock the chemicals such as microwaving, sun's ultraviolet rays, and the steam of dishwashers. Bisphenol A, or BPA is commonly used in food or beverage containers. It is a known hormone disruptor and has been strongly linked to a number of diseases, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, pba-lung function studies in children, and cancer.

Acting on Our Corporate Stand, What Can We Do to Help?

1. Keep a few reusable bags in your car (on the front seat so that you notice them), and when asked, "Paper or plastic?", you can say: "Neither! I brought my own bags."
2. Reuse your "disposable" bags to line trash bins or to discard kitty litter or similar activities.
3. Carry your own glass or stainless steel water bottle and take it with you everywhere you go. (There are currently major legal cases pending for bottling companies violating agreements regarding over drafting municipal water supplies.)
4. Use glass jars from sauces and other store-bought items as storage containers for left-over food.
5. Soda drinker? Buy cans instead of plastic bottles.
6. Eating out? Bring along a reusable container for leftovers.
7. Remember: Only 9% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled. It's expected it will take at least 400 years for the plastic we've already created to break down.

Source: https://foodrevolution.org/blog/single-use-plastics-problems/?utm_campaign=frn18utm_mkedi



Some good news: The mechanism developed to try to remove plastics from The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (seven million square miles and so far from any country's coastline that no nation takes responsibility for it) initially failed. However, with modifications, it is now working so there is hope that this area may eventually be cleared of the floating plastic debris. Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/03/ocean-cleanup-device-successfully-collects-plastic-for-first-time>