

Plastics. Why are they are problem?

Grocery bags, containers, toothbrushes, packaging, traffic cones, garbage bags, water bottles, shampoo bottles, Tubs, straws. None of these are harmful, right? If so many people use these things every day, they must be fine, right? Yeah. Definitely. Probably. Maybe. Are they? All of these products are made from the same material, plastic. We see and use plastic every day, everywhere, and it has become part of our lifestyle, but is it safe?

We depend on plastic greatly. Today, every single one of us has used plastic, whether it be the pen with which we write, the drink bottle we drink out of, or the packaging we put our food in, we've all used plastic. If it was, say, packaging, you, hopefully, did the 'right' thing and put that plastic in the bin, Then it would be taken to the dump and never be harmful again. No. When you put plastic in the bin, yes, it is then taken away to the dump, where some of it is burnt, and some of it is piled up into landfill and a tiny fraction is recycled. Problem solved, no more plastic!

Wrong, actually. After you throw away plastic it is even more harmful then before you did. Before you threw it away, you probably didn't even know it was harming you. Plastic leaks chemicals which are found in nearly all of us, and these chemicals are extremely detrimental to our health. But this isn't even the worst of it. After you throw your plastic away, only 9% actually makes its way to be recycled, the other 91% goes off on a long adventure, using its special chemicals and immunity to biodegradation to fatally harm millions of flora and fauna.

When plastics are removed, they make their way into waterways and landfill, once there, the problem blooms. Believe it or not, plastic bags can look pretty tasty to an expectant sea creature, and once eaten, this meal doppelganger wedges itself into the innocent victim's mouth, as plastic cannot be digested, it resides inside the virtuous animal. Plastic also manages to wrap itself around many sea creatures and birds, trapping them and causing them a lot of pain, creating it difficult to do simple tasks such as eating.

But plastic bags don't only harm humans and animals, when taken to landfill, it is impossible for them to breakdown, they will stay in the environment for over 400 years, creating pollution, damaging the ozone layer and slowly killing us all.

Dramatic, right? Well, it's true. So maybe we should extract these evil, mystical, strangling, immune doppelgangers called plastics from our lifestyle. Maybe they aren't so good after all.