

# PLASTICS & RECYCLING



Plastics are a large source of pollution on our earth and cause extensive damage to the environment, animals, and especially our ocean! Recycling is the process of taking a product after use and using all or part of it to make another product. Recycling is just one simple, but effective way to start combatting the environmental harm induced by plastic.

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## All About Recycling

Recycling does not mean just throwing a plastic bottle into a blue bin, but is actually **the whole process of making your throwaways reusable again**. This includes sorting, washing, cleaning, and shredding that thrown away plastic. So, it is important you recycle correctly so that recycling factories can do their job more efficiently.

### 3 Rules of Recycling:

Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard.

Keep liquids and foods out of your recycling.

Do not use plastic trash bags or bag your recyclables before putting them into the recycling bin.



**TIP:** IF buying plastic, buy Type 1 or 2, and RECYCLE after!

## Plastics Statistics & Facts



As of 2018, 12.7 million tons of plastic enters the oceans per year.

At the rate that plastic is flowing into the ocean, it is predicted that by 2050, the mass of plastic in the ocean will exceed the mass of fish.



79% of plastic ends up in landfills or the environment, 9% is recycled, and 12% is burned.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch has an area of 1.6 million kilometers squared, which is almost 3 times the size of France.

