

# PLASTIC POLLUTION

## HOW TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION ON OUR LAND AND IN OUR WATERS



Plastics are synthetic materials derived from natural, organic materials such as cellulose, natural gas, coal, salt, and crude oil, that can be moulded into shape while soft, and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form. There are many different types of plastics, and they can be grouped into two main polymer families:

1. Thermoplastics (which soften on heating and then harden on cooling). e.g.: polycarbonate (PC)
2. Thermosets (which never soften once they have been moulded). e.g.: polyurethane (PUR)

Plastics are versatile, lightweight, flexible and highly durable. It is used in various packaging applications including bottles, drums, boxes, cups, etc. It is also used in making toys, bags, the bodies of pens, sharpeners, and other things that we use in our day-to-day lives. They are found in cell phones, T.Vs, computers, and other electronic equipment that make modern life possible. They are also found in the walls, roofs, flooring and insulation that make homes and buildings energy efficient.

### **ADVANTAGES OF PLASTICS:**

Plastics are corrosion resistant and chemically inert. They have a low thermal expansion coefficient and possess good thermal and electrical insulating properties. They are water resistance and possess good adhesiveness. plastics are strong, and cheap to produce.

## **DISADVANTAGES OF PLASTIC:**

Plastic are harmful in nature. disposable plastics used in packaging foodstuff for human consumption contain harmful compounds. Improper disposal of these packaging products leads to these harmful compounds finding their way to waterbodies, where they dissolve over a long time due to their non-biodegradable nature littered plastics are also a danger to animals because they occasionally eat them and die. Additionally, plastics fabrication involves the use of potentially dangerous chemicals, which are added as stabilizers or colorants. They cause environmental degradation. Plastics are generally non-degradable; hence, they may take centuries to decay. Plastics generally have a short useful life compared to metals. This short life causes pile-ups of unwanted garbage in the home, office or waste yards. Although some of these plastics are recycled, most remain uncollected in dumps and water fronts and pollute the environment.

## **PLASTIC BAN:**

India's food services delivery business, the fastest growing segment of the food and beverages industry is facing higher operating costs and the likelihood of disruption because of the ban on the usage of single-use plastic materials. The restrictions will likely cover all packaging materials including bags, cups, containers and straws. Aggregators such as Swiggy and zomato are helping find viable alternatives for their partner kitchens. Zomato is cooperating with research-based startups and firms to introduce quality and eco-friendly packaging for their restaurant partners. A Swiggy spokesperson said it has found viable alternatives, including bags, straws and cutlery, which the aggregator has made available to restaurants through its Packaging Assist venture.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING:**

Here are some alternatives for plastic packaging:

- 1.PLANT-BASED PLASTICS (Bioplastics) from a variety of sources such as corn
- 2.SHOWER-FRIENDLY PAPER
- 3.STONEPAPER AND PLASTIC
- 4.PALM LEAVES5.CORN STARCH AND SORGHUM LOOSE FILL18:30 28-06-2020

## **REDUCTION OF PLASTICS GOING INTO DUMPS AND WATER FRONTS :**

People do not know how to dispose plastics properly and don't want to put effort into disposing plastics properly. They just dump them wherever they want to. By reducing the amount of plastics that we use, we can reduce the amount of plastic being thrown. the following are some simple methods of reducing the usage of plastics:

1. Use cloth bags instead of plastic bags.
2. Buy food that has less packaging.
3. Make dinner instead of consuming take-out food and micro-wavable dinners.
4. Buy dairy products in containers you can return.
5. Don't use bottled drinks unless you have to.
6. Reduce your paper usage.
7. Reuse containers.
8. Recycle plastics when you can
9. Follow your cities recycling policies.
10. Dispose trash and hazardous waste properly.

If we dispose plastics responsibly, in the dry-waste dustbins which the government and other organizations provides us with, it will automatically reduce the amount of plastics going into dumps and water fronts.