

Facts About Plastics

From <http://www.theworldcounts.com/stories/interesting-facts-about-plastic-bags>

- **160,000 plastic bags are used globally every second!**
- **5 trillion plastic bags are produced yearly. Side by side, they can encircle the world 7 times.**
- **The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is a floating landfill of garbage in the Pacific twice the size of Texas, is mostly composed of plastic.**
- **Plastic will only start degrading after 700 years and will only fully degrade in 1000 years. This means that all the plastic that has ever been produced has not degraded yet.**
- **Plastic bags remain toxic even after it breaks down. It doesn't biodegrade, it photo-degrades. It means that after it degrades, it breaks down into smaller and smaller toxic bits of itself – and bleeds and contaminates the environment.**
- **An average family will use 60 plastic bags on four visits to the supermarket.**
- **Only 1 to 3% of plastic bags are recycled worldwide.**
- **Plastic bags cause the death of many marine animals when they are mistaken for food.**
- **Plastic bags were introduced to supermarkets in 1977**