

Plastic Pros and Cons



Plastic is made from petrochemicals.	Oil and natural gas that are used to make plastics are not renewable; once they are used they cannot be replaced.
Some plastics can be recycled.	Plastics can be moulded in different shapes.
Many items contain plastic but it can't be seen.	If left in the environment, plastics break down into tiny little pieces, called microplastics.
Plastic does not biodegrade.	No animals, minibeasts or microbes can digest plastic.
There are many different types of plastic, containing many different chemicals.	40% of all plastics made are used in packaging, which is very quickly thrown away.
Less than a fifth of all plastic in the world is recycled.	Making plastic uses oil, water and heat energy.
In the UK, 38.5 million plastic bottles are used every day.	Supermarkets in the UK do not automatically give out plastic carrier bags anymore.
A fleece jacket can be made from 25 plastic bottles.	When clothing containing plastic is washed, tiny microfibrils are released into waterways and they cannot be filtered out.
Many plastics are either burned in incinerators or buried in landfill sites.	Bakelite, the first commercially successful totally synthetic plastic was invented by Leo Baekeland on February 5, 1909.
Plastic can be used to make toys, mobile phones, televisions and games consoles.	Now that many cars have plastic parts and components, they are lighter and use less fuel.