

Plastics



Introduction

- Plastic has left a huge impact on our daily lifestyle
- Synthetic material left harmful imprints on environment and human health
- Plastics are very long-lived products that could have service over decades
- Nearly every household item contains plastic



Plastic Pollution

- Plastic pollution involves accumulation of plastic products in the environment
 - adversely affects wildlife, wildlife habitat, or humans
- Have been attempts to reduce plastic consumption and promote plastic recycling
- Plastic pollution exists in many forms
- in 2011 plastics constituted over 12% of municipal solid, in the 1960s, plastics constituted less than 1% of municipal solid waste
- Large amount of plastic produced each year is used to make single-use

Plastic Pollution



Effects on the environment

Land

- plastic can release harmful chemicals into the surrounding soil
- can cause serious harm to animals that drink this water

Ocean

- Polystyrene pieces and nurdles are most common types of plastic pollution in oceans
- There is approximately 165 million tons of plastic pollution in the world's oceans

Effects on animals

- Plastic pollution has the potential to poison animals
- Over 260 species have been reported to have either ingested plastic or become entangled in the plastic

Effects on the environment



Reduction efforts

- Some supermarkets charge their customers for plastic bags
- more efficient reusable or biodegradable materials are being used in place of plastics
- two common forms of waste collection include curbside collection and the use of drop-off recycling centers
- people place designated plastics in a special bin to be picked up by public or private hauling company
- there are varying rates of recycling per type of plastic
- 2011, overall plastic recycling rate was approximately 8% in the US
- Approximately 2.7 million tons of plastics were recycled in the U.S. in 2011