



Where Does It Come From?

- Plastic litter is one of the biggest issues facing the world's seas.
- The amount of plastic debris in the world's oceans is predicted to triple by 2028.

Photo: Plastic litter in the ocean.

Plastic in the World's Oceans Set to Triple over the Next Decade

The impact of plastic litter on the world's oceans is one of the biggest environmental issues today. Plastic isn't **biodegradable**, which means it can stay in the environment for up to 1000 years.

Over 12 million tonnes of plastic finds its way from the land into our oceans each year. Plastic **debris** washes up on beaches all around our planet and has even been found trapped within Arctic ice.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of animals choke to death on plastic, which they mistake for food. The problem is so severe that 'trash islands' are now being discovered. These are large areas of floating rubbish brought together by ocean currents.

There are many groups of people, such as Greenpeace and WWF, who work hard to stop the flood of plastic into our oceans. They are asking big **corporations** to reduce plastic packaging and governments to help by introducing **microbead** bans and

charges for plastic carrier bags. Smaller groups can support too. Many nurseries and schools no longer use glitter and some cafes and restaurants have stopped giving out drinking straws.

By taking action now, we can help stop further damage to our planet's oceans and protect our precious marine environment.

Glossary

biodegradable	a material which can be easily broken down and decomposed by bacteria
debris	scattered pieces of rubbish
corporations	a large company or group of companies
microbeads	tiny pieces of plastic found in products such as face scrubs and toothpaste

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