

Problem plastic hunt guide



Overview

Problem plastics are plastic products or packaging which are unnecessary or single use. In this activity you will go on a treasure hunt around your home to see if you can find any of the problem plastics listed below.

| PRODUCT | PROBLEM | IDEA |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 1. WET WIPES | Wet wipes are made of synthetic fibers. These should not be flushed down the toilet as they block sewers and contribute to ocean plastics. | There are compostable and biodegradable alternatives. But the best option is to use a reusable, washable wipe or cloth to stop waste altogether. |
| 2. COTTON BUDS | Cotton buds' handles are often made from plastic. They often get flushed down the toilet. Even if you put them into the bin they cannot be recycled. Because of their small size, once in the ocean, marine creatures can confuse them for food. | There are cardboard handled alternatives, another method is using bamboo ear picks. |
| 3. CLING FILM | More than 1.2 billion meters of cling film is used in the UK every year. Although the plastic can be recycled it often is not because the small pieces get lost in processing or because it is dirty. | Ditch the cling film and reduce plastic waste by using re-usable air-tight containers or bees wax wraps to keep food fresh. |
| 4. FOOD WRAPPERS | Lots of food items come in plastic wrappers. Even worse, multipacks have many individually wrapped items. These single-use plastics are rarely recyclable. | Get baking! Make your own snacks, such as granola bars, and portion them out for the week to save money and plastic waste. |
| 5. PLASTIC STRAWS | Plastic straws are single use and because they're very small they cannot be processed to be recycled. | Refuse single use plastic straws. There are lots of reusable children's flasks and metal straw alternatives which means there are no excuses! |
| 6. PLASTIC CUTLERY | Disposable plastic cutlery is intended for single use. They can be recycled but not everywhere. | Say no to disposable cutlery. You can invest in a spare set of reusable cutlery for guests during special occasions which will last for many years. |

STUDENT SHEET

IF YOU FIND ONE OF THE PROBLEM PLASTICS, WRITE ITS NAME OR NUMBER ON YOUR TREASURE MAP IN THE ROOM WHERE IT WAS DISCOVERED.



GARDEN



LIVING ROOM



BATHROOM



BEDROOM



KITCHEN