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Plastic Pollution in the Ocean [EARTH.ORG](https://www.earth.org)



More than 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans every year

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest problems affecting the marine environment, with an estimated 8 million tonnes of plastic entering the ocean annually. Roughly 40% of the ocean's surface is now covered in plastic debris and if

our plastic consumption continues, it is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean.

Animals mistake plastic waste for prey

Plastic debris floating in the water can look a lot like food to animals. When an animal ingests plastic, it fills up their stomach and reduces the feeling of hunger, which prevents them from eating and dying from starvation.

100,000 animals die from entanglement each year

These are just the animals that have been found. There are constant reports of marine animals entangled in fishing litter. Between 500,000 and one million tons of fishing gear enters the ocean each year. As it floats through the water, it traps any marine creature that swims in its way, which can restrict the animals' movement and make it difficult for them to feed or swim. Mammals are particularly susceptible as they struggle to breathe underwater and are killed by drowning.



Plastic breaks down into microplastics

This means that every plastic we have ever used still exists in some form or another somewhere around the world. Plastics were designed to be strong and durable, so it's not surprising it is one of the most persistent pollutants on Earth. Something as small as a plastic bottle can take more than 400 years to break down.

WE NEED TO ACT NOW & REDUCE OUR PLASTIC USAGE