

A sea turtle is shown swimming in the ocean, viewed from an underwater perspective. The turtle is moving towards the right side of the frame. The water is clear and blue. Overlaid on the top half of the image is a stylized title. The words "TOP 10" are in large, bold, orange letters with a white outline and a blue shadow. Below them, the words "Killer" and "Plastics" are in white, bold, sans-serif font with a thick blue outline and a blue shadow. The entire title is set against a blue background with a pattern of small white dots and radiating lines, giving it a comic book or graphic design feel.

TOP 10 Killer Plastics

*The worst single-use
plastics for ocean animals,
and what you can do. ↪*



You have the power
to create healthy
oceans, full of life.

Australians treasure our beautiful beaches and iconic marine life.

For years we've done our part to keep our oceans beautiful, recycling and picking up litter.

Yet our efforts haven't stopped plastic pollution flowing into our oceans.

**Every 30 seconds another ocean
animal is killed by plastic.**

Our turtles, whales and wildlife are washing up on our shores with stomachs full of plastic.

It's up to us to save them. But we must act quickly, because the flow of plastic waste is increasing fast.

The oil and gas industry, who make the plastics we use every day, are increasing plastic production at a rate that will double the plastic in our oceans by 2030. There will be more plastic than fish in our seas unless we make a change.

With safer, non-toxic and earth friendly alternatives available, it's time to ditch these killer plastics.

*Will you ditch the 10 single-use plastics
most likely to kill ocean wildlife?*



Plastic Shopping Bags

Plastic bags (lightweight and heavyweight) are one of the most lethal plastic killers of ocean animals.

They escape and float easily in air and water, travelling long distances. They take up to 1,000 years to break down.

Small animals, seabirds and even turtles get entangled in them and drown.

Turtles mistake them for their favourite food, jellyfish. Once eaten, these soft plastics block their stomachs and they starve.



DID YOU KNOW?

A plastic bag was found at a depth of 10.9km in the Mariana Trench.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES

- Keep lightweight reusable bags in your bag, pocket or car.
- Go old-school with straw baskets!

TIP

Use bags for your bins? Line them with newspaper instead, and separate your organic waste for compost.

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES

- Offer paper carry bags
- Keep your cardboard boxes for customers who forget
- Offer your own reusable bags!



Plastic Cutlery

Plastic cutlery is one of the most deadly plastics for sea turtles, birds and marine animals.

Sharp, highly likely to be contaminated, and commonly found in waterways, these plastics can cause serious injuries.

Seabirds and turtles who eat the plastic pieces get internal injuries and poisoning.

Less than half of plastic utensils thrown away are recycled.



DID YOU KNOW?

Albatross are more prone to eating plastic because they fish by skimming their beaks across the water's surface, scooping up plastic as well as fish.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES



- Wooden cutlery
- Bamboo cutlery
- Stainless steel cutlery

TIP

Carry a reusable cutlery set in your bag and always be prepared!

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES



- Offer bamboo or compostable cutlery
- Only offer disposable cutlery on request
- Commit to plastic-free kitchens in your office spaces



Plastic Straws & Drink Stirrers

Straws are a notorious killer of ocean animals.

Lightweight and easily blown away, straws end up in waterways and flow straight out into the ocean.

They can cause serious injuries when they get stuck in noses or airways.

When straws break down into smaller pieces, they get eaten by seabirds and ocean animals where they can cause internal injuries or build up into blockages.

DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated 10 million straws are used in Australia every day, and they take up to 200 years to break down.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES

- Paper straws
- Reusable straws (silicone, stainless steel, bamboo, glass etc)

TIP Carry a straw with your reusable cutlery set!

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES

- Offer paper straws, and only to those who ask
- Use reusable stainless steel straws (also great drink stirrers!)
- Only offer compostable bioplastic straws for those in need, and collect them back to ensure they get to a commercial composter.



Plastic Fruit & Veggie Bags

Wasteful soft plastics like **fruit and veggie bags** at the supermarket are dangerous for ocean animals.

Like shopping bags, these soft plastics are rarely recycled and they easily blow away into waterways.

Turtles will mistake them for their favourite food, jellyfish. Even whales and big mammals can swallow them, where they tangle around other items and become life-threatening blockages.



DID YOU KNOW?

New research indicates plastics smell like food to some turtles.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES



- Use paper mushroom bags
- Bring your own mesh veggie bags
- Let your bigger veggies stay loose!

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES



- Buy in bulk (boxes) instead of smaller quantities
- Keep the cardboard boxes for customers who forget
- Talk to food suppliers about your preference for no-plastic packing
- If you sell fresh produce, don't pre-package, and offer paper bags



Balloons & Balloon Sticks

Balloons are one of the most common items found in the stomachs of dead animals.

Balloons and balloon sticks break down into small pieces that look like food. Hard to digest and stretchy, balloons wrap around other items in stomachs and cause starvation.

Strings and ribbons from balloons strangle animals who get caught in these killer traps.



DID YOU KNOW?

Balloon pieces are the biggest plastic killer of seabirds.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES

- LED lanterns
- Paper garlands
- Flags
- Banners
- Bubbles
- Flowers
- Kites

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES



- Try reusable banners or garlands, or offer cake for events instead of balloons
- Give fun cardboard masks on card instead of balloons for kids!



Plastic Bottles & Lids

Plastic bottles and lids litter our coasts and seas. Although recyclable, too many end up in landfill or the oceans.

In the sea they float on the surface, or break up into small pieces. Seabirds will mistake bottles or their lids for food, and animals of all sizes will accidentally eat the plastic pieces.

Once eaten, these plastic pieces cause internal injuries and starvation.

DID YOU KNOW?

It can take up to 3L of water to make 1L of bottled water.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES

- Carry a reusable water bottle
- Opt for reusable glass bottled beverages and always recycle

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES



- Stock the fridge with beverages in glass bottles or cans
- Provide free tap water for customers
- Consider offering a water cooler or bubbler for employees

TIP

Help customers and staff recycle by offering a recycling bin at your business



Plastic Takeaway Containers

Brittle and sharp, **plastic takeaway containers** break down into sharp pieces that are eaten by wildlife - causing internal injuries.

Sometimes plastic containers develop holes that marine life can get stuck in.

Takeaway containers are highly likely to also carry the risk of contamination. They can move around the planet, enter huge floating garbage patches, even reach far flung beaches.



DID YOU KNOW?

Evidence suggests plastics could leach chemicals into food when heated.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES



- Bring reusable containers to cafes and restaurants
 - Reuse plastic takeaway containers
- TIP** Find businesses that allow you to bring reusable containers at trashlesstakeaway.com.au



IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES



- Switch to aluminium, compostable cardboard or bagasse takeaway containers
- Catering an event? Check your provider will use recyclables
- Allow customers to bring their own containers
- Offer reusable containers, returnable for refund



Polystyrene Products

Composed of about 95% air, **polystyrene** travels long distances on the wind or water.

Polystyrene is commonly found in the environment because it's not biodegradable and it's difficult to recycle.

Its soft structure means it fragments easily into pieces, which birds, fish and mammals love to eat. Hard to digest, it slowly starves animals to death.

It's also known to leach the dangerous chemical styrene.



DID YOU KNOW?

Seabirds feed these plastic pellets to their baby chicks, mistaking them for food.



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES

- Bring reusable containers
- Say no to food or beverages that come in polystyrene

TIP Slow down! Eat in once in a while.

- Biodegradable or recycled cardboard containers
- Mushroom material containers
- Ask before you purchase – “do you use compostable packing materials?”

TIP Offer reusable containers, with a refund on return! Join networks of participating cafes like Returnr.org

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES





Plastic Lined Coffee Cups and Lids



Disposable coffee cups have a thin plastic lining to prevent liquids leaking, making them difficult to recycle.

The lids are made from varying types of single-use plastic. They're rarely recycled.

In the ocean the cups and lids break up into pieces that look like food. Fish will eat the tiny plastic particles, and eventually those particles can make their way back into our food chain.



DID YOU KNOW?

Australians throw out 2.7 million disposable coffee cups every single day!



PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES

- Carry a reusable cup and tread lightly on the earth!
- Take a mug from your kitchen at home

TIP

Find cafes offering discounts for keep cups at responsiblecafes.org

- Offer a discount for bringing a reusable cup
- Create a "mugshelf" and let people borrow and return mugs
- Give reusable cups to your staff!

TIPS

Join greencaffeen.com.au - customers can return reusable cups to any participating cafe

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES





Plastic Cups and Plates

Plastic cups, plates and bowls are rarely recycled. Even if they make it into the recycling bin, they often can't be sorted at recycling centres due to their unusual shape.

Easily blown into our waterways, they harm turtles and wildlife who eat the plastic pieces.

Like other plastics, the pieces build up in the guts of animals, causing injuries and slow starvation.



DID YOU KNOW?

It can take up to 450 years for plastic cups to decompose.



Photo: Noel Guevara / Greenpeace

PLASTIC FREE ALTERNATIVES



- Try bamboo plates
 - Bring your reusable cup to picnics and events
 - Use paper cups and plates instead
- TIP** Watch out for paper plates and cups that have a plastic lining!

IDEAS FOR BUSINESSES



- Reusable plates, cups and bowls
- Compostable paper plates, cups and bowls
- Bamboo plates and bowls
- Create a culture of zero-waste in the office kitchen

TIP

At events offer reusable items, and a dish washing station for attendees

Help us stop plastic killing our ocean wildlife.



Sign the petition to ban these killer plastics in Australia.

marineconservation.org.au/plasticban



Donate to marine conservation efforts

marineconservation.org.au/donateplastic



This resource was made possible with the support of Good Pitch Australia (Shark Island Institute & Documentary Australia Foundation).



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