

### Pollution Dilution

Picture this, it's summer vacation, so you go to the beach, but as you walk towards the ocean you step on something, you look down and see a plastic water bottle cap? You look around and there's more plastic waste, like the beach turned into a dump. From this experience I realised that people should really recycle instead of throwing their plastic waste away just to end up in the ocean, where a sea creature could get stuck or maybe even eat it by accident. Additionally, plastic isn't biodegradable and it can stop plants from growing. I'm Zahra Salki and today I'll be talking about plastic waste, how it affects our ocean, and the ways we can combat this.

You might think just throwing your plastic away is easier than recycling, well it might be, but did you know that some grocery stores have places to recycle plastic bottles and some even pay you for doing it. According to Target help, some grocery stores have stations for recycling plastic bottles and even cans, so next time you drink from a plastic bottle save it for when you go grocery shopping.

Why should we recycle? You may ask, well when you throw away your plastic in a regular old trash can it goes from the sewers all the way to the ocean then a sea creature might mistake it as food or get stuck in it, for instance, according to National Geographic kids, turtles might think plastic bags are jellyfish and accidentally eat them. Do you really want to be the reason a turtle gets hurt?

Plus plastic isn't biodegradable, which means it takes a long time to decompose and when I say long time I mean 500 YEARS to decompose, and plastic can also stop plants from growing. According to Eco Gardener it can stop plants from growing or even kill them by stopping resources that they need to survive reach them.

Overall, plastic pollution harms sea creatures, it isn't biodegradable, and it can stop plants from growing. But how do I just one kid make a difference, well turns out me you and anyone

can make a difference, just by using a reusable bottle, a reusable bag, or during lunch time at school, if you have an extra plastic bottle or any hard plastic at all throw it in the recycling bin instead of the trash bin. I hope you all have a great day, and thank you for your time.

### Sources

1.National geographic kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/kids-vs-plastic/article/pollution-1>, Jan, 13 2025.

2.Eco Gardener

<https://ecogardener.com/blogs/news/landscape-fabric-vs-black-plastic#:~:text=Non%2d Permeable%20 covering%20like%20 plastic.cut%20 slits%20for%20the%20 plants>, Jan 15 2025

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<https://help.target.com/help/subcategoryarticle?childcat=Store+services&parentcat=Other+Services&searchQuery=search+help#:~:text=The%20station%20is%20available%20for,GPS%20devices%20and%20ink%20 cartridges>) Jan 16 2025