

# Plastic-Imperishable and Ecologically Destructive

Essential Commodities in the life of a city dweller: Toothbrush, toothpaste, milk pouch, disposable plastic cups, polythene bags, plastic packaging material etc.

## Harmful Effects of Plastic

- Plastic takes a million years to decompose.
- Plastic fills up landfills, causes land pollution.
- Burning of plastic emits harmful pollutants in the air.
- Plastic clogs the drains and causes water logging.
- Polythene bags and other plastic garbage thrown into seas kill a million sea creatures every year.
- Many coloured plastic containers presently used for marketing oils and fats leach colours to products.
- PVC is known to be a carcinogen and a hormone disrupter, also blamed for immune system disfunctions.
- Plastic bags thrown around are harmful to cows and other animals.



## Alternatives

- Carry your own shopping bag.
- Use eco friendly returnable bottles. Have bottled drinks.
- Avoid packaging waste by buying large economy packs.

SMALL ACTIONS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE,  
DO YOUR BIT TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

## Why reducing and re-using are better than recycling?

- Recycling of plastic causes air pollution and emits harmful dioxins.
- Unlike glass bottles, plastic bottles cannot be recycled to make plastic bottles of same quality.
- Recycling is difficult as once a plastic has been used some contamination may have occurred.
- Re-using: Better even than recycling and certainly better for plastics.

Club of Youth Working for Environment (CYWEN) is a youth group associated with Centre for Environment Education (CEE).

CYWEN is involved in a range of environmental activities including awareness creation, research and direct action. The members are from various schools and colleges of Ahmedabad.

### CYWEN

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