

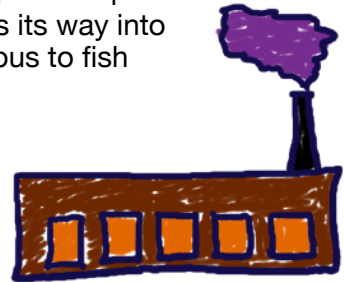
Eight Things to Know About Plastic Packing Materials



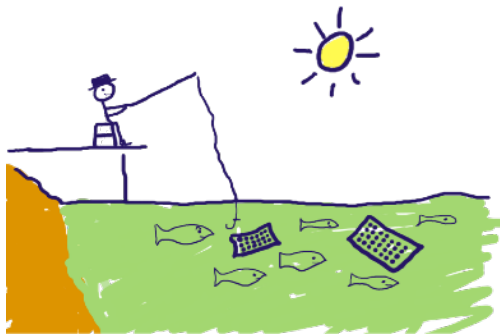
1. Plastic is not biodegradable, so its disposal requires more and more space at landfills. If it finds its way into our lakes and oceans, it becomes hazardous to fish and other aquatic animals.



2. Burning plastic produces deadly air pollutants, including dioxins, that are carcinogenic to humans.



3. Plastic packing materials are often blown along by the wind, collecting in trees, empty lots, street gutters and backyards, and eventually making their way into our surface waters.



4. Plastics are made from fossil fuels, and the manufacturing process releases toxins into the environment. So not only do plastic materials themselves cause pollution, but making them also contributes to climate change!



5. Styrofoam peanuts are not easily recyclable, so the only thing to do is re-use, or better yet, eliminate their use altogether!



6. Bubble wrap is another ubiquitous packing material that doesn't break down in the environment. Along with other plastics, it accumulates in giant garbage patches in our oceans.



7. Biodegradable packing materials actually **COST LESS** than their plastic counterparts!

8. Microplastics are created from plastic items breaking down in the environment. They are found in our air, water, food and even in our bodies. It is estimated that we may ingest over 100,000 microplastic particles every day!

Reducing the use of plastic packing materials is something every school can do!

