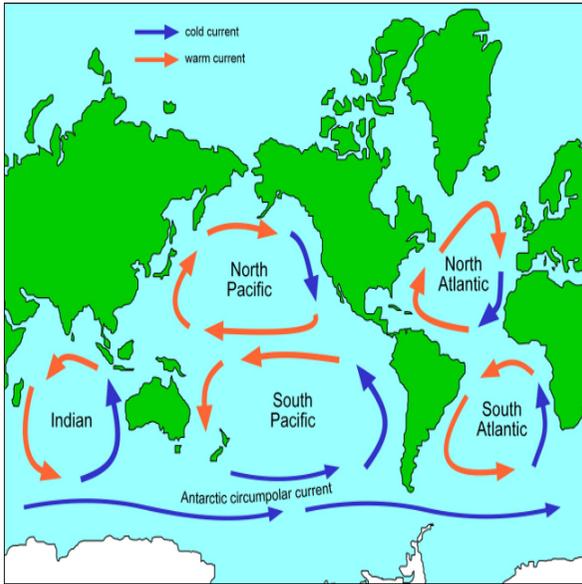


The oceans cover 2/3 of the Earth's surface.



Currents carry plastic to the centre (gyres) of the five oceans, where it accumulates for hundreds and hundreds of miles: much of it below the surface.

Plastic doesn't degrade: it just breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces of ....plastic!

Eventually, ocean currents would discharge the rubbish onto beaches around the world. So...if we never threw away another piece of plastic and kept cleaning our beaches, we might clean up the seas.

If we tried to scoop the rubbish out of the seas we would be scooping up marine life too.



Email:- [newforestfoe@gmail.com](mailto:newforestfoe@gmail.com)



[www.foe.co.uk/groups/newforest](http://www.foe.co.uk/groups/newforest)

The floating plastic breaks down into such small segments that the pieces from just ONE litre bottle could end up on every mile of beach in the world.

Beaches of every island in our biggest ocean, the Pacific, are covered with rubbish from the sea.



*An albatross chick sits amongst the rubbish.*

Every year tens of thousands of albatross chicks on the Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean die because they choke or are poisoned by plastics that their parents mistakenly feed to them.

The first step in solving the problem is to personally lower your plastic consumption.

# REALLY? ARE PLASTIC BAGS REALLY SO BAD?

Well, plastic is strong and very light: ideal for making so many things.....especially plastic bags.

Plastic is cheap so we can toss it away without worrying about the cost of buying more.



**One million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans.**



Turtles eat jellyfish.



Hundreds of whales, dolphins, porpoises, turtles, fish and sea birds have been found with plastic in or around their bodies.

Plastic attracts pollutants that come off land: oil from your car, pesticides, flame retardants etc. because these are repelled by water. A single piece of plastic the size of your thumbnail in the middle of the ocean can have up to 1 million times higher toxicity than the water around it. Little fish eat it; bigger fish eat them; we eat big fish. This can disrupt hormones and cause liver damage.

The Daily Mail reported that most free plastic carrier bags are not used for more than 20 minutes, but can take up to 1,000 years to naturally dissolve.

All the plastic that has been thrown away is still in our landfills, our seas.....



.....and even blowing in the wind!  
Burning it sends poisonous pollutants into the atmosphere.

From gutters and drains it gets in our rivers and flows to the sea.

**More information at:**

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/oceans/fit-for-the-future/pollution/trash-vortex/>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/plastic-rubbish-heaps-at-sea-pose-bigger-threat-to-earth-than-climate-change-claims-ocean-expert-9692265.html>  
[savethewater.org/vortex-of-trash-earths-ocean-are-choked.](http://savethewater.org/vortex-of-trash-earths-ocean-are-choked)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/26/opinion/choking-the-oceans-with-plastic.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/26/opinion/choking-the-oceans-with-plastic.html?_r=1)

*Compiled from the Internet by Enid Knight ~ Jan 2015*