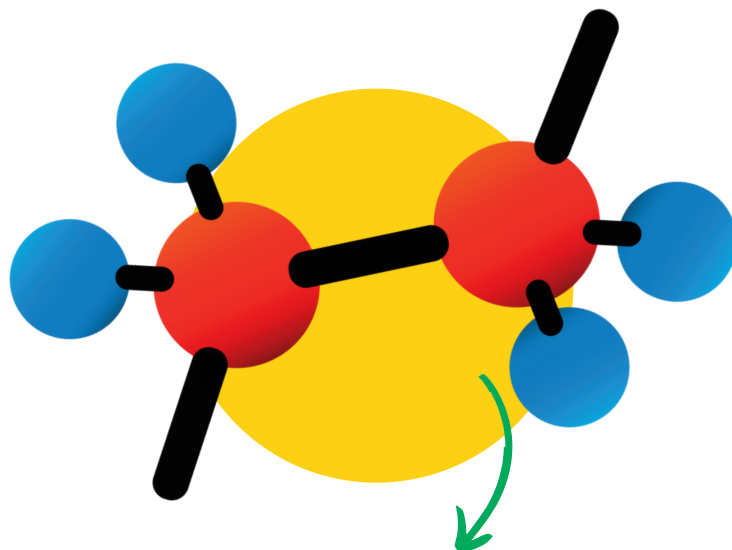


PLASTIC FACTS

Plastic is a word that originally meant “pliable and easily shaped.” What we call plastic now refers to a type of material made up of “**polymers**”. Poly means “of many parts”.



This is what polyethylene looks like really close.

Polyethylene is a polymer primarily used in **plastic packaging like bottles and bags**.

Plastic is **made of crude oil**. Did you know crude oil is also refined and turned into **petrol and car oil**?

GOOD NEWS!

In 2021, the Australian government committed to a National Plastics Plan to reduce plastic waste, increase recycling rates and find alternatives to plastics!



JOIN THE CYCLE

SOFT PLASTICS

Soft plastics are any kind of plastic item (usually packaging) that can be easily scrunched in your hand.

Common soft plastic items include:

- Plastic bags
- Pasta and rice bags
- Lolly packets
- Fresh fruit and veggie bags and frozen food bags
- Cling wrap
- Bubble wrap



When soft plastics are incorrectly put in household recycling bins, they can **contaminate** the recycling and cause problems at recycling facilities if they become entangled in the machinery.

When something is contaminated it has become **dirty, polluted**, or **not usable**. Contaminated materials cannot be recycled!



TOP TIP!

Soft plastics **should not be** put in your household recycling bin.

HARD PLASTICS

Lots of hard (sometimes called “rigid”) plastic containers can go in your household recycling bin, but it’s not always easy to know which ones.

A triangle with a number inside (1 to 7) stamped on a plastic container or bottle is called a **Plastic Identification Code**.



This code identifies the type of plastic used to make the product. It is not a recycling label and it **does not mean the item can be recycled**.



This video will explain why plastic was invented, what it’s made of, and what one company is doing to recycle plastic.

watch the video here!

FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about plastics and how you can recycle them at [Recycling Near You](#)

