



Preventing Plastic Pollution

30 November 2022

Quiz time

We use plastic every day, it is all around us, but how much do you know about it?

Try this quiz with your club members. The answers are at the end.

For more information on some of the questions check out the resources listed at the end.

1. Most plastics are made from oil. The word plastic is derived from the Greek word plastikos, what does mean?

- A) Able to be stretched
- B) Able to be moulded
- C) Strong
- D) Variable in form

2. The first synthetic plastic was called Bakelite. When was it developed?

- A) 1895
- B) 1907
- C) 1915
- D) 1921
- E) 1953

An underwater photograph showing various pieces of plastic waste on the seabed, including a discarded cigarette pack, a white plastic cup, and other debris.

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3. Plastics are in our clothes and shoes, in products on supermarket shelves, in vehicles and buildings. There are many different types of plastic. From the list of materials below select all the ones that could be/contain plastic.

- A) Cotton
- B) Polyester
- C) Polymer coated
- D) Synthetic wool
- E) Nylon
- F) Polystyrene
- G) Teflon
- H) Rubber
- I) Acrylic
- J) Wool
- K) Linen

4. Clothes made from synthetic (plastic) fibres can be a source of very small plastic fibres (micro fibres) to the environment. According to a recent study, which of these is the most common pathway for these fibres to be released to the environment?

- A) To water when being washed
- B) To the air whilst being worn
- C) Both equally common



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5. A 2016 study found that an average wash load of 6kg could release more than 700,000 plastic micro fibres. The study tested three types of fabric which was found to release the fewest micro fibres?

- A) Acrylic
- B) Polyester
- C) Polyester-cotton blend
- D) There was no difference

6. Which of the statements below are true?

- A) Polyester and acrylic clothes release more fibres the more times they are washed as the garments become worn out
- B) The number of fibres released from polyester and acrylic clothes decreases rapidly over the first few washes
- C) The number of fibres released from all garments stays the same over time

7. According to recent estimates where are plastic micro fibres released from clothes washing in Western Europe most likely to end up?

- A) Poured back into rivers or sea in treated waste water
- B) Removed from water at water treatment works then buried in land fill
- C) Removed from water at water treatment works then incinerated
- D) Removed from water at water treatment works then applied to land in sewage sludge used as a fertiliser



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8. The Marine Conservation Society collect data from beach cleans. In 2022, the two most common litter types found on English beaches included plastic. What were they?

- A) Food packets
- B) Plastic bags
- C) Small bits of plastic broken off larger pieces
- D) Drinks bottles
- E) Bottle caps
- F) Cigarette stubs (there is plastic in the filter)

9. To the nearest whole number, what percent of the beach litter found by the Marine Conservation Society in 2022 was items containing plastics that had been incorrectly flushed down the toilet (e.g., wet wipes, sanitary products)

- A) 1%
- B) 3%
- C) 6%
- D) 10%

15. From 1 April 2021 which of these single-use plastic items could no longer be supplied in England except for exempt users?

- A) Straws - answer
- B) Cotton buds - answer
- C) Drink stirrers - answer

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- D) Cutlery
- E) All of the above

11. What does this symbol found on packaging mean?

- A) The product is made of recycled content
- B) The product is capable of being recycled
- C) The product will be recycled by most (at least 75%) of councils
- D) The producer has made a contribution towards recovery and recycling of packaging in Europe



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14. Should teabags can go in the compost bin?

- A) Yes (they are a good fertiliser)
- B) No (they all contain plastic that wont decompose)
- C) Sometimes (some teabags have been designed to be plastic free and compost safe)

15. You go out to a café and get a takeaway lemonade. It comes in a clear plastic cup that says it is biodegradable with this symbol on it. What should you do with the cup to ensure it does biodegrade after use?

- A) Throw it in the nearest public bin
- B) Put it in your compost heap at home
- C) Put it in your normal plastic recycling
- D) Throw it on the ground, it will biodegrade and do no harm
- E) Identify a suitable local collection centre for industrially compostable packaging



Answers: 1B; 2B; 3B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I; 4C; 5C; 6B; 7D; 8C;F 9B; 10.A,B,C; 11D; 12B; 13C; 14C; 15E

An underwater photograph showing various pieces of plastic waste on the seabed, including a crushed metal can, a white plastic bottle, and some crumpled plastic bags.

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Resources

[Microplastic release from textiles](#)

[Microplastic release in washing](#)

[Fate of micro plastic released from washing](#)

[Recycle now website](#)

[Plastic particles in fulmar stomachs](#)

[Marine Conservation Society data](#)