

# Plastics in the Sea

The extremely dangerous effects of plastic pollution on marine life are now well known. Sea creatures can become entangled in plastic or mistake it for food, with serious or fatal consequences. It is a problem on a vast scale which only adds to other pressures facing our seas.



Paul Lim, 2013. Creative Commons

All plastics are potentially toxic to marine life, take years to break down and form harmful micro-plastics when they do.

## Plastic Fantastic?

Have a look at the plastics in your home – plastic is everywhere – from packaging to tools to toys.

### **Can you reduce your use of plastics?**

Do we need all of the plastic that we have? Refills or concentrated cleaning liquids and are becoming more available for plastic bottles. You can buy wooden toothbrushes and washable cloths. What materials would be good to use instead of plastic? Which things might still need to be made of plastic?

### **Can you identify all the different types of plastic in your home?**

Which ones can be recycled? Check your local Council website to see what they collect. Making sure that as much plastic as possible is recycled rather than binned or thrown away will stop it from reaching the sea.

There are lots of groups working to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic. Check out the **Our Sea, Our Future** section of the exhibition for more contacts and ideas.