

Plastics. Maligned by Myths.

(Bust the myths.
Get your facts right.)



We live in the information age. All facts and figures are just a tap of a keyboard away. Or are they? Unfortunately, we also live in a 'misinformation' age where myths are dressed up and spread as facts.

Plastics have been reviled by non-experts who only know half of the story and this misleading information has been spread to such an extent that the material itself is now considered as an incarnation of evil, and its invention loathed as a nightmare.

Let's examine the realities for ourselves and separate the myth from the truth.



MYTH
ONE

**“All plastics are
not recyclable.”**

Let's take this myth head on.

TRUTH

**No matter what kind of
plastic, it can almost always
be recycled.**

It's just that certain types of plastics are more valuable than others in the recycling market. The plastics that fetch a lower sum have unfairly earned the reputation of being branded 'unrecyclable.' As technologies for sorting different plastics evolve, these plastics too will be recycled with all the others.

For example,



Plastic #1 can be recycled into
textiles (garments, furnishings,
etc.), tote bags, carpet, polar
fleece etc.



Plastic #2 can be used for
making pens, collection bins,
lumber, and benches.



MYTH
TWO

**“Plastics may
cause cancer.”**



TRUTH

There is no evidence to support this falsehood. In fact, it is absolutely safe to eat from plastic containers.

It is also untrue that chemicals that can cause cancer are found in plastics. No such chemical exists in plastic containers.

MYTH
THREE

**“Non-Plastics are
eco-friendly.”**

TRUTH



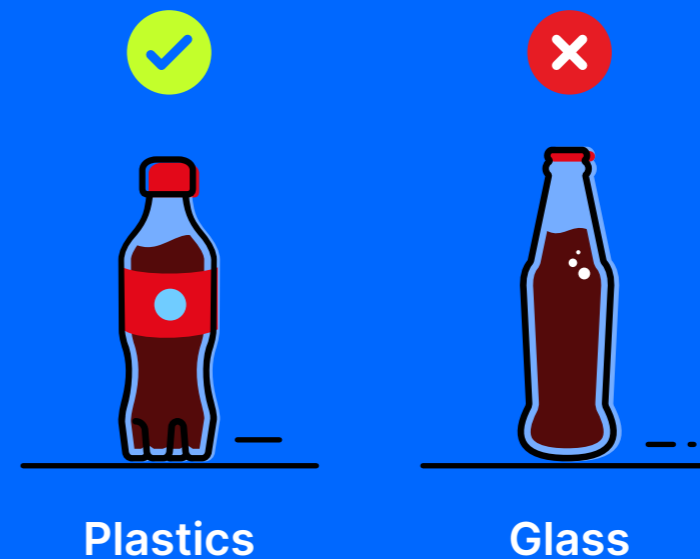
A well-established study
reveals that

**since paper is produced
by felling trees, it leaves a
greater carbon footprint.**

Also, it takes only 1 truck to deliver plastic bottles
and 7 trucks to deliver the same amount of glass
bottles. So, do the math: Which one makes more
commercial and environmental sense?

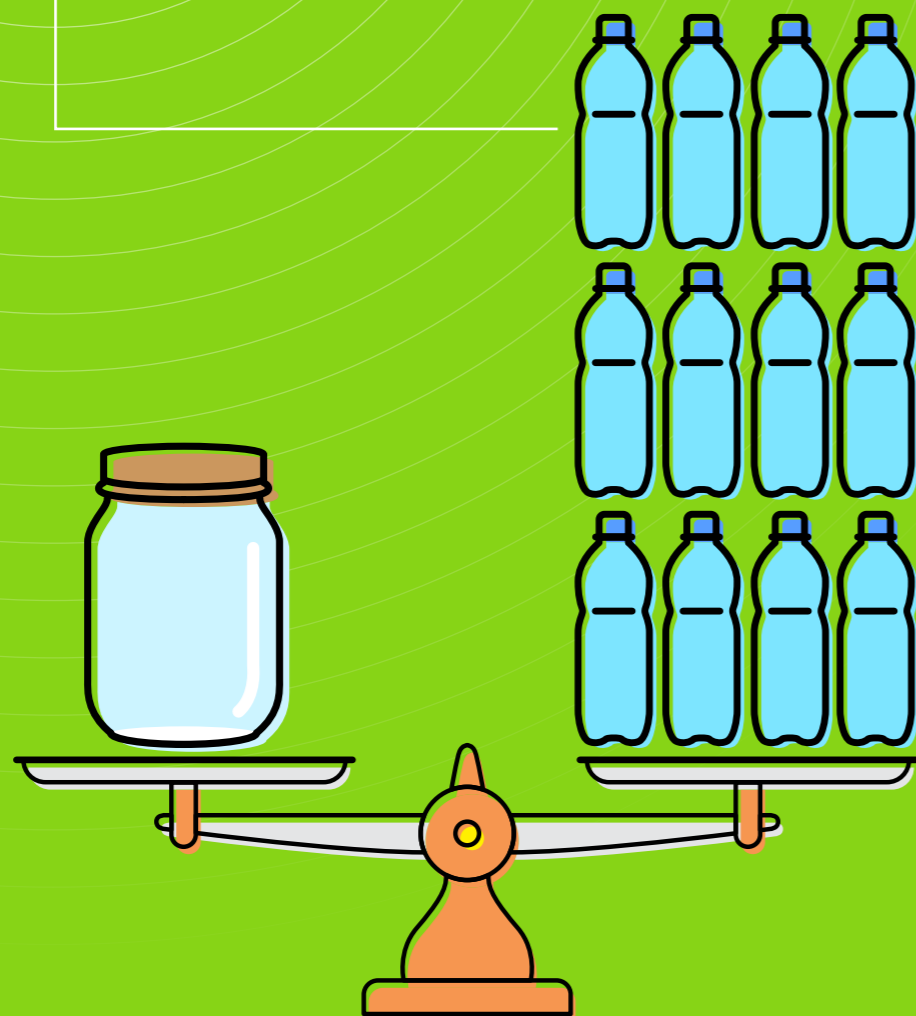
To extend the shelf life of its content, no other
material comes even close to plastics.

**In fact, right across the
distribution chain,
plastics have clearly
proved to be the superior
packaging option on
almost every count.**



MYTH
FOUR

**“Producing plastics
consumes a lot of
natural resources.”**



TRUTH

Plastics are lighter and use lesser raw materials to produce. So, it is evident that plastic packaging is more energy and resource efficient when compared to heavier alternatives such as glass.

In fact, because of their lightweight, plastics consume less amount of fuel in the transportation of vehicles, passengers and the payload. Thus, fuel, which is also a valuable natural resource is saved.

MYTH
FIVE

**“Plastics take
450 years to
break up.”**

TRUTH

First of all, plastics started gaining mass popularity only about seventy years ago, so how can anyone conclusively say that it takes 450 years to break down?



The fact is that there is no scientific data to establish how many years it takes for plastics to break down proves that these are just sensational statements.

Also, plastics are designed to withstand the natural process of decomposition which is why they are the preferred material for packaging.

MYTH
SIX

“Reusing plastic bottles causes harmful chemicals to leach into water.”



TRUTH

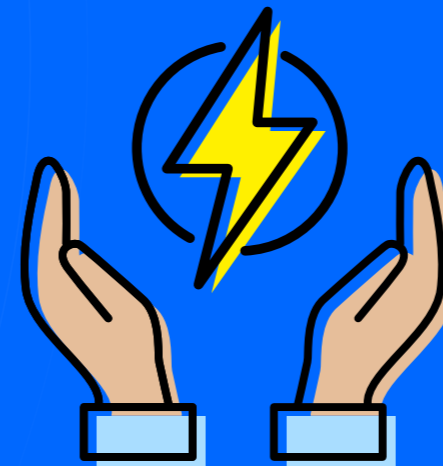
Plastic water bottles are usually made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a lightweight, transparent, inert, shatter-resistant and well-tested material.

US-FDA, after extensive reviewing, allows the use of PET in both single-use and multiple-use packaging of foods, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

Refillable bottles made with the PET resin are frequently reused in a number of other countries.

MYTH
SEVEN

**“Recycling
plastics does not
save energy.”**



TRUTH

It is a fact that 66% of energy is saved while producing new plastic products from recycled materials.

This also reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

MYTH
EIGHT

**“Plastic containers
are unsafe in
a microwave oven.”**



TRUTH

Plastic containers that are meant for use in a microwave oven are certified for that purpose and are clearly marked with the ‘Microwave Safe’ symbol.

All such containers must undergo stringent tests to earn this certification. However, it is to be noted that some plastic containers are not meant to be used in microwave ovens.

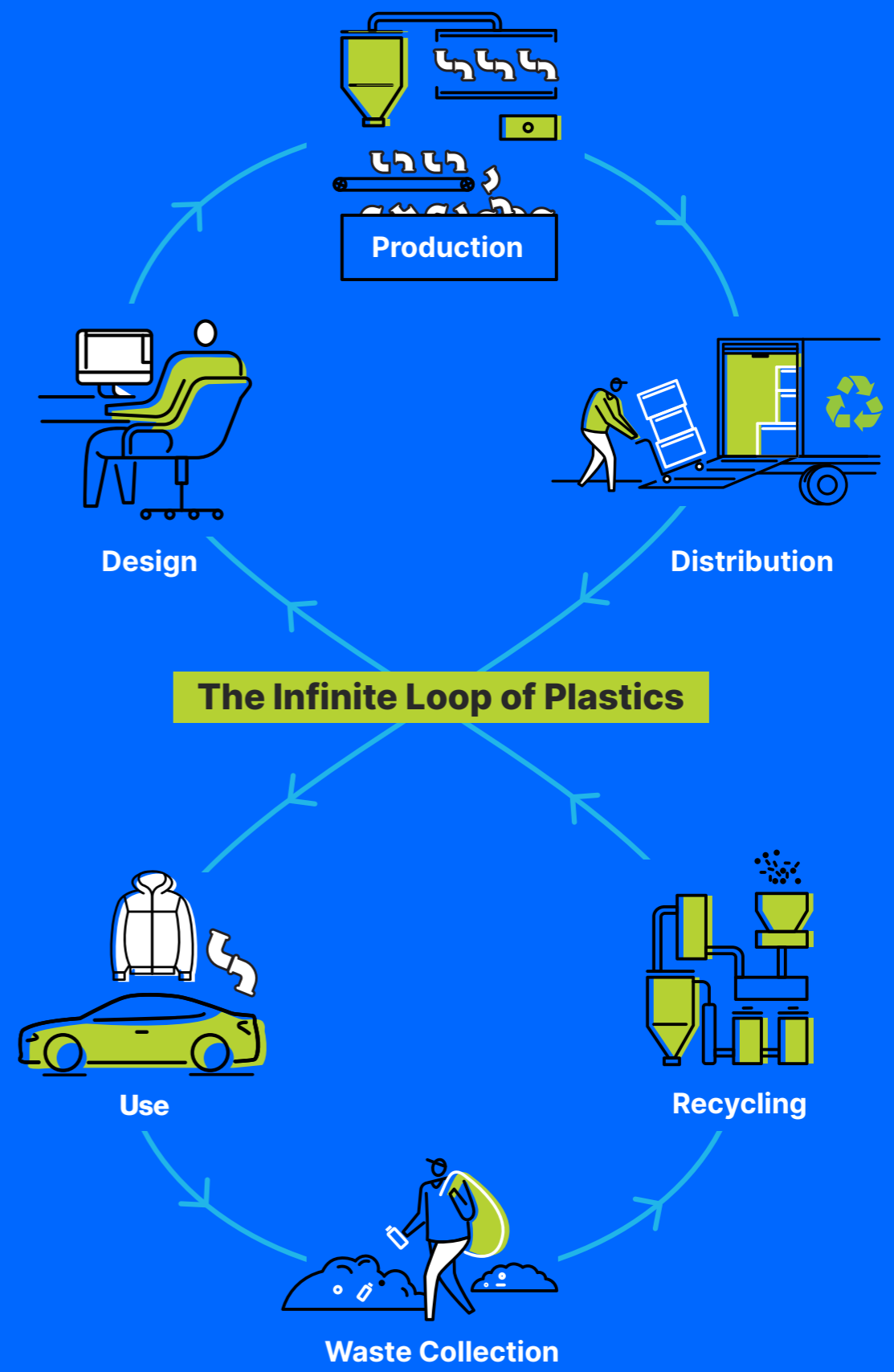


“There is no market for recycled plastics.”

TRUTH

As more companies become sensitive to sustainability and the environment, the market for recycled plastics is growing by the day.

Recycled plastics are found in automotive parts, carpets, piping and in many other products.



MYTH
TEN

**“Resin codes
dictate usage.”**

TRUTH

In 1988, the Plastics Industry introduced a numbering system for recyclers - this system was not for the end consumers.

The aim was to codify the chemistries of different polymers thereby enabling the identification of its properties.



Today the codes can help recyclers segregate plastics properly.

MYTH
ELEVEN

“Bio-plastics will eliminate and solve all disposal issues.”



TRUTH

Bioplastics are plastics derived from bio-organic material. While they have green benefits, they also have certain limitations when it comes to disposal.

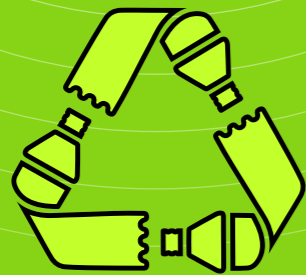
There is no evidence that the bioplastics can biodegrade in the darkness and confinement of a landfill.

Bioplastics may emerge from more sustainable sources, but in the end, they have to be recycled into the system to be effective. Further, bioplastics more often than not are non-recyclable.

Biodegradability introduced by the incorporation of additives in the normal plastics are even more harmful. Such plastics not only hurt the recycling chain of the normal plastics but also result in the formation of microplastics.

MYTH
TWELVE

**“All plastic bottles
end up either in the
ocean or in landfill.”**



TRUTH

**Actually, only 10% of
PET bottles annually
made in India end up in
landfills.**



**65% are recycled in
registered facilities,
15% by the unorganised
sector and 10% is reused
at home.**



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