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# The Recycling Times



HADCO Group's Recycling Division Monthly E-Newsletter



Image Credit: [United Nations Environment Program](#)

## Our Oceans vs Plastic Pollution

Plastic – it is everywhere. In fact, it’s hard to imagine our modern world without it. It is useful, versatile, and unfortunately so pervasive, that almost every commercial product contains some form of plastic.

In this month’s Recycling Times, we will briefly focus on single-use plastics - how they cause damage to marine life, and how HADCO’s Recycling Division is working to preserve and protect our coastlines and marine life from plastic pollution.

The [United Nations Environment Program](#) estimates that we produce about 400 million tonnes of plastic a year globally. Of that 400 million, it is estimated that anywhere from 75 to 199 million tonnes end up in our oceans.

We do not usually think about what happens when we throw away a single-use plastic water bottle in the bin, but we should. Plastics often end up in the oceans through waste mismanagement.

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**JOIN US  
AS WE COLLECT,  
SORT, AND EXPORT  
THOUSANDS OF  
TONNES OF  
WASTE PLASTICS  
FROM OUR SHORES TO  
INTERNATIONAL  
RECYCLING  
FACILITIES.  
CONTACT US  
ABOUT OUR  
COMPLIMENTARY  
COLLECTION  
SERVICES.**

Kevin Whiteman -  
Managing Director,  
Recycling Division,  
HADCO Group

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## The Plastic Problem

The problem with plastic is that it does not decompose well, so when taken to our landfills, it will remain there for years. For example, plastic bags can take anywhere between 10-20 years to decompose.

Given that plastics are generally lightweight, as the quantity builds up in our landfills, heavy winds or large amounts of rain transport the plastics into waterways, drains and rivers – eventually finding their way into the ocean. Plastics also enter the ocean through intentional littering or illegal dumping of waste near rivers and coastlines.

Recycling Plants serve to reduce landfill waste and decrease the overall percentage of plastic in the ocean by safely recycling plastic waste and turning it into new products.

Here is a list of the plastics most frequently found in the ocean due to waste mismanagement:



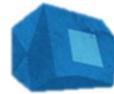
**Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)**  
Water bottles, dispensing containers, biscuit trays



**High-density polyethylene (HDPE)**  
Shampoo bottles, milk bottles, freezer bags, ice cream containers



**Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)**  
Bags, trays, containers, food packaging film



**Polypropylene (PP)**  
Potato chip bags, microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, bottle caps, single-use face masks



**Polystyrene (PS)**  
Cutlery, plates, cups



**Expanded polystyrene (EPS)**  
Protective packaging, hot drink cups

## Plastic and Marine Life

Apart from being an eyesore on our coastlines, marine life can often mistake plastics for food and become trapped. Plastics can also damage the underwater habitats of marine animals; all of which have dire consequences for the survival and well-being of our oceans.



Sea turtle trapped in a plastic bag  
Image Credit: [United Nations Environment Program](#)



Fish washes up on a polluted beach  
Image Credit: [United Nations Environment Program](#)

## Microplastics and Human Consumption

As plastic items remain in the ocean and break down, they slowly disintegrate, leaving small pieces known as 'microplastics' which are mistakenly eaten by marine life. These microplastics can range anywhere from centimetres to millimetres in size. The sea animals cannot properly digest the microplastics and so it remains in their gut and liver.

Humans who eat the flesh of fish or shellfish that have consumed the plastic also cannot process and digest the microplastic. This can lead to irritation and inflammation of the stomach, as well as numerous other health conditions.



Microplastics can range anywhere from centimetres to millimetres in size  
Image Credit: [United Nations Environment Program](#)

## What You Can Do

Despite these alarming statistics - the threat to marine wildlife and the danger of digesting microplastics; there are many ways that businesses, restaurants, and eco-conscious citizens can take action to prevent plastic pollution.

HADCO's Recycling Division can help you get rid of your waste PET and HDPE plastics.

You can drop off the following household items:



Single-use plastic water bottles



Cooking oil bottles



Plastic bottles of bleach and detergents



Shampoo, conditioner and liquid soap bottles

*Please ensure that your waste plastics are dried and placed in a sealed bag.  
View our drop-off points on the following page.*

# Get Involved!

We can all play our part to ensure that waste plastics are directed to the proper recycling facilities and do not end up in our oceans, or on our dinner tables. See our drop-off points below.

If you have a large number of waste plastics to recycle, feel free to contact us about our complimentary collection services.

**HADCO Limited - Head Office - JRJ Warehousing Compound, Bhagoutie Trace, San Juan.**

**New Age Recycling Facility - 17A Yorke Avenue, O'Meara Industrial Estate, Arima.**

**Ecoimpact Facility - Lot 17 DEFG, e Teck Diamond Vale Business Park, Diego Martin.**

For sorted plastics (PET and HDPE), glass, Tetra Pak, aluminium cans, wastepaper, and cardboard inquiries, please contact New Age Recycling at (868) 290-2970 / 2975 or visit [www.newagerecyclingtt.com](http://www.newagerecyclingtt.com).



Recycle your plastic single-use water bottles with HADCO's Recycling Division and lets close the loop together

*Image Credit: [RTS](#)*

For more information on our Recycling Division  
visit us at [www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling](http://www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling)

