

Plastic Changed Our World

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Mostly everyone over a certain age will remember [The Graduate - 1967](#), and the scene where Mr. Maguire approaches Dustin Hoffman's character - Ben Braddock - at Ben's college graduation party offering him advice. Mr. Maguire leans in to Ben and says, "One word, are you listening? ... **Plastics** ... there's a great future in plastics."

Mr. Maguire had a point. Forty-seven years ago, the plastic production pendulum was already making it's lopsided move one way. And it has stayed there, year after year, decade after decade until now, when we're all starting to realize what a huge mess we've all made. We're all guilty of keeping the pendulum firmly to one one side.

There's a great documentary called, [Addicted to Plastic](#). It's worth watching as YOU WILL BE AMAZED at just how much plastic enters and exits our lives EVERY DAY!

Arguable, some plastics have improved our quality of life; plastics in hospitals and medical care, plastic protects our food, helps build better insulated homes, cars, cameras, computers and SO much more stuff — and it's disposable — and that is the problem. Too many *disposable* things are made out of plastic. We simply use and throw away too much!

Now the planet and generations to come will pay the consequences. As evidence: landfills busting over with plastic casually thrown away and not recycled; highways and bi-ways teeming with plastics strewn across their medians; the Garbage Patches floating in every one of our oceans, entering the food chain and the detrimental effect on all marine life which ingest pieces of plastic and over time, will die.

It's mind boggling to still see plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic can/six pack rings in the trash. WHY are those can binders still being used? Plastic 6-pack rings can be deadly to marine life.

When small, sea turtles which are already endangered, will unknowingly swim through rings. Because their heads are narrower than their carapace (shell), the ring stays put. As the turtle grows, the ring effects how the shell develops.

But lessons are out there for our children and grandchildren to absorb and hopefully remember.

Disney did it's part with its movie, [Happy Feet](#). One character is the self proclaimed leader of the penguins. He wears the "Sacred Talisman", actually a plastic six-pack ring caught around his neck. He's obnoxious and overbearing until the ring begins to literally choke the life out of him. All marine birds; gulls, osprey, albatross, pelicans are victims of plastic rings around their necks. They prevent them from eating and they die.

If you haven't seen a movie titled, [Midway: Message from the Gyre](#) go do it. It's a short film worth watching and sharing with your children. It's heartbreaking; heartbreaking because of how we – as human beings – totally disregard the consequences of our mindless actions – like littering.