



WasteLESS Week - Plastics Facts & Tips

Plastics Facts

1. The world has produced a whopping 8.3 billion metric tonnes of plastics since the 1950s. That's enough plastic to cover every inch of the UK ankle-deep more than ten times over.
2. 12 billion tonnes of plastic waste will be in landfills or the natural environment by 2050. That's the weight of over 66 million blue whales!
3. The plastic of 25 x 2ltr drinks bottles can be recycled into an adult-size fleece jacket.
4. Every year an estimated 4.5 billion plastic bags are given away by UK supermarkets.
5. There are believed to be 46,000 pieces of plastic in every square mile of ocean.



Work Plastics Tips

1. Use the Better Tomorrow 2025 [waste reduction toolkit](#) to raise awareness about waste reduction and create a plan to improve your sites waste performance.
2. Review the [guidance on sustainable packaging](#) and see what changes can be made on site to reduce single use plastics.
3. Read and share the [Sodexo environmental commitments](#) and work towards improving your sites long term goals.
4. Train your staff using the Sodexo [waste management development programme](#) which is accredited by the professional body; Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM).
5. Consider introducing a discount for customers who use reusable coffee cups. This incentives and rewards reusing!
6. Contact [sustainable procurement](#) and see what supply changes can be made to improve your site plastic usage.

Home Plastics Tips

1. Give away any unwanted household items to others using the [Freecycle Network](#) extending their life.
2. BYO (Bring Your Own) Cup! Purchase a reusable water bottle and coffee cup to reduce your need for single use plastic bottles and coffee cups. Within the UK 38.5 million plastic bottles are used every day!
3. Say no to plastic straws and stirrers. Sodexo has banned the purchase of these from June 2018. Plastic straws are notorious for harming ocean wildlife and can break down into microplastics causing more damage.
4. Reuse your carrier bags when you go shopping. Sodexo has pledged to phase out carrier bags and other single use plastic items by 2020.
5. Freshen up with mints and not chewing gum. Gum is made from plastic and is non-biodegradable!



wasteLESS
WEEK
22 - 26 October

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QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES

