Plastics in the Ocean

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Let's Talk Trash

We currently use over 300 million tones of new plastic every year. Half of that is used just once and then thrown away. Every year, we throw away 8 million tones of plastic waste into our oceans. Each year, over 8 million tones of plastic are collected in the ocean. This is the equivalent of a garbage truck every minute. Plastic is absorbed by marine life, which can cause them to die of starvation or toxic chemical exposure. It is important to be mindful of our plastic usage and reduce it.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

As currents come together and accumulate trash, there are five great garbage patches in the world that make up the most common types of marine debris found in our oceans and great lakes. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is the largest and most well-known of these patches. It is located in the North Pacific Ocean and has been growing in size over the past century. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is made up of a large number of small pieces of plastic, which are often difficult to track and map.

Animals

With plastic appearing in every crevice of our oceans, it is hard to imagine what else this plastic effect is doing. It's much worse than we thought. Fish, seabirds, and marine mammals are affected by plastic debris. This plastic debris can cause physical harm, such as entanglement or ingestion, or it can cause chemical harm, such as absorption of toxic chemicals.

The Mediterranean Sea

Another area that is greatly affected by plastic pollution is the Mediterranean Sea. This sea is known for its high marine diversity, with approximately 17,000 marine species. However, the Mediterranean has the highest plastic pollution rate in the world, with 15,000 to 20,000 pieces of plastic debris per square meter. The plastic debris in this area is made up of a variety of materials, including plastics, metals, and玻璃.

What the Ocean does for us

We cannot live without the ocean. It is our life. 70% of the oxygen we breathe comes from marine plants. 95% of the Earth's water supply is contained in the ocean. 30% of our food is produced by marine life. Marine plastics and other types of plastic debris are destroyed by the ocean, and it isn't just the plastic that is harmful. The ocean is also home to many other harmful substances, such as oil spills and other contaminants.