

PLASTICS!!!

OVERVIEW

- Environmental Impacts of Plastic Bags
- Economic Impacts of Plastic Bags
- Interesting Uses
- Plastic Safety

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- It takes plastic bags around 1000 years to degrade
 - Think about how many generations will see your bags!!
- 8 billion plastic bags are used every year
 - Think about that graphically, what does a slope of 8 BILLION look like?

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Plastic Bags are cheap to make
 - This is why they're normally free
- Many places have talked about taxing shoppers when they need bags
 - Shoppers tend to go where they're not taxed

INTERESTING USES

Carbon Nanotubes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpoZSq-irNc>

Plarn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr6anm6qqKc>

Plastic Smithing

<http://www.instructables.com/id/HomemadePlastic/>

PLASTIC SAFETY

- Certain plastics are ok to use (heat/melt)
 - Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)
 - High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)



- Most other plastics will release harmful fumes when heated or melted
- Remember, we are NOT burning the plastic

A QUICK REMINDER ON PLASTIC SAFETY!



PETE

DANGER!

Toxic! Avoid Burning.



HDPE

Safe

Very sturdy, but doesn't really melt.



PVC

DANGER!

VERY TOXIC! Do not Burn!



LDPE

Safe

More flexible, catches on fire



PP

Safe

Caution!!

Doesn't melt, but gets hot fast



PS

DANGER!

This is Styrofoam



OTHER

Safe

only if it's PLA

**REMEMBER IF YOU NEED TO MELT/WARP/SOFTEN
TRY DOING IT THROUGH BOILED WATER INSTEAD**

What is Up Cycling

up·cy·cle

/ˈəp,sɪkəl/

verb

gerund or present participle: **upcycling**

reuse (discarded objects or material) in such a way as to create a product of a higher quality or value than the original.

"the opportunity to upcycle trash, or turn it into new products, was vast"

-Google



Show!! Don't tell!!



Upcycling Resources

<http://www.upcyclethat.com/>

<http://www.hgtv.com/design/topics/upcycling>

<http://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/make-and-decorate/decorating/19-upcycling-projects-from-salvage-dawgs-pictures>