

Plastic Packaging vs Paper Packaging

The Time For Change Is Now.



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There is a tide turning against plastic packaging, with Blue Planet covering the damage plastic packaging is doing to our oceans, we discuss the long standing battle between plastic and paper packaging.

Where is plastic packaging used?

Plastic packaging is everywhere we look, from our toys to food and drink packaging.

Materials like Polyethylene and Polyethylene terephthalate are widely recycled in the UK but materials used for product packaging including bottles, meat trays and some fruit punnets - Polypropylene and Polystyrene are not currently recycled.

Even plastics that are recyclable aren't being recycled by consumers according to a recent Recoup UK Household Plastics Collection survey:

“Only a third of UK consumers’ plastic packaging is recycled”

Why? Because consumers are confused by plastic packaging and whether it is recyclable. The sheer number of different plastics used is enough to baffle even the most savvy eco shopper.

Why is plastic packaging causing problems?

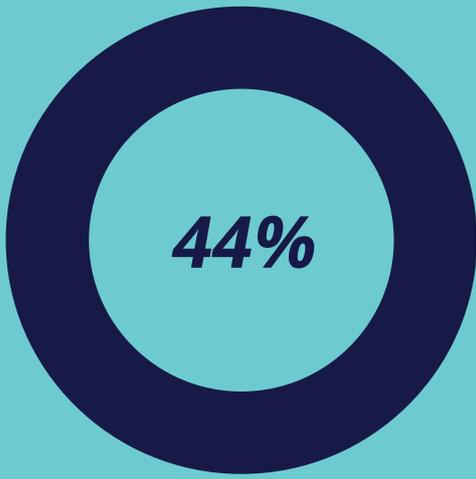
Plastic is built to last. Whilst this is great for durability of the items it's used in, for something like packaging which is more often than not thrown away and never seen again - we don't want it to last forever surely?

According to studies there is currently:

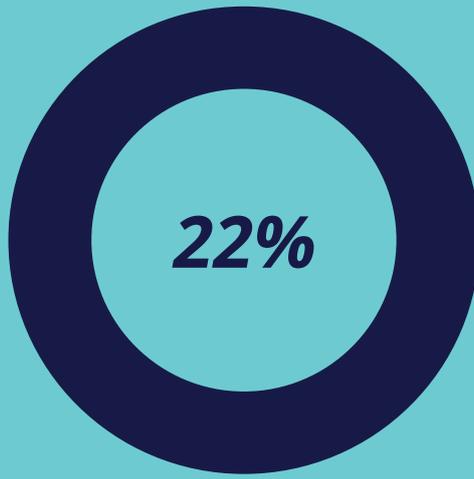
6.3bn tonnes of plastic in waste, sitting in landfill or our natural environment.

To give some perspective to the growing problem, a plastic bottle is estimated to take 450 years to biodegrade.





of all seabird species

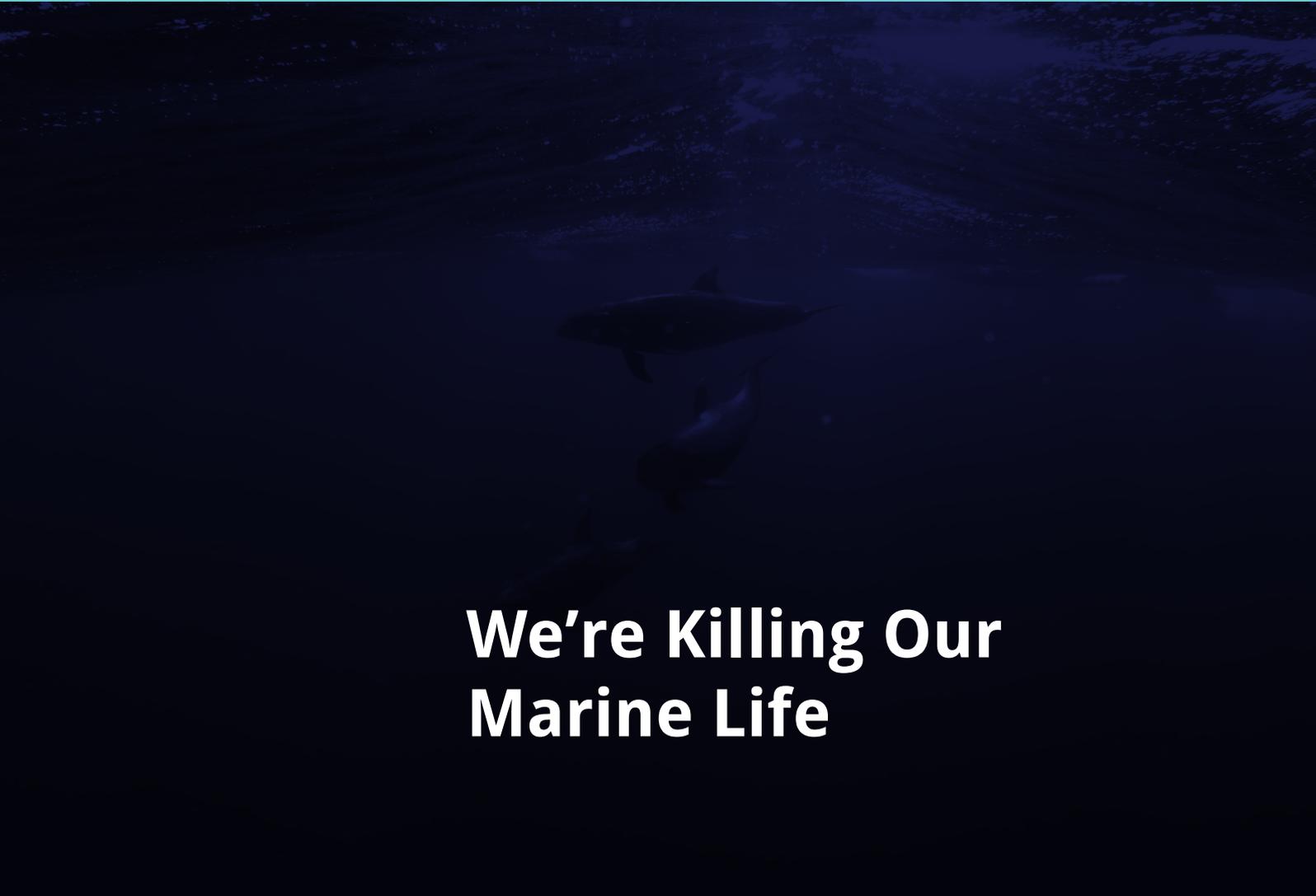


of cetaceans



of sea turtle species

***have been documented with plastic in
or around their bodies***

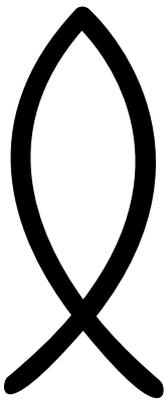


**We're Killing Our
Marine Life**

What is the long term impact if we don't change our packaging processes?

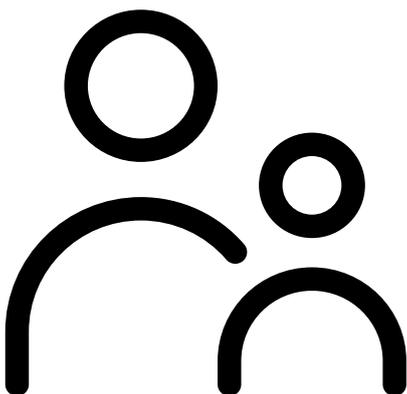
In this whitepaper, we have covered the damage we're doing to our marine life and the future of our oceans but we're also potentially endangering generations of our families to come.

Over time, plastic waste from packaging and products degrades and breaks down into tiny micro-fragments which have been found in fish in recent studies.



A 1/3 of UK caught fish contains plastic.

Scientists don't know the effects of eating fish containing plastic at the moment but the warning signs are that continued use of plastics in packaging and products will become a human health issue as well as an environmental one.



What is the alternative to plastic packaging?

As retailers and manufacturers move quickly to reduce their impact on the oceans and environment whilst making recycling their packaging easier for customers, we are seeing a move away from plastic packaging.

As a paper packaging solutions provider, you'd expect us to say cardboard is the answer at this stage. But this alone won't solve the problem.

The solution is to use as little packaging material as possible.

At Ribble we believe in:

- Excess void fill and plastic packaging being eliminated from the packaging process
- Better vehicle utilisation and lower transport costs
- Only 100% recyclable packaging

Ribble Packaging works with retailers and manufacturing businesses who care about the impact they have on the environment. If you'd like to find out how our packaging solutions could work for your business, get in touch.



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