





per year. That's over 575 million soft drink bottles!

Around **18,000 tonnes** of these are recycled.

WHY RECYCLE PLASTIC?



The energy saved by recycling one plastic bottle will power a computer for 25 minutes.

Most plastic is not biodegradable and will survive in the environment for over

PET bottles are recycled in Australia to make new bottles or exported to be used in carpet, eco-fleece and other synthetic fibre products.

Fossil fuels such as **natural** gas, oil and coal are used in the production of plastic, emitting dangerous gases and toxic chemicals.





pieces of plastic floating in each square mile of our oceans.

IF IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT

Recycling 1 tonne of plastic saves enough energy to run a refrigerator for a month, or 84% of the energy it would take to make it from raw materials.

600

vears.

NEVER RECYCLE:

lolly wrappers.

Plastic bags, polystyrene and cling

wrap, toys, personal hygiene products,

Plastic is made from non-renewable resources that, once depleted, cannot be replaced.

X





WHAT HAPPENS TO PLASTIC?

COLLECTION

Plastic is collected in recycling schemes and separated from other recyclable products at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

SEPARATION

At the recycling plant plastics are shredded, chopped or ground into small pieces. They are then washed to remove labels and residue

PROCESSING 2

NEW PRODUCTS

It is then cooled, pressed

and chopped into pellets or

granules ready to be made into

new plastics

This is melted and pushed through an extruder – a bit like a spaghetti maker

PROCESSING 1

The resin is stretched into strands and either shredded, chopped or ground again. These pieces are washed again to remove any remaining contaminants

BALING

Plastics are sorted by density enabling further sorting into plastic types which are then melted down to resin

THE SCRUNCH TEST A+

1. If a piece of plastic can be easily scrunched up or broken, then it probably can't be recycled. If you are still unsure, then throw it in your normal rubbish bin.

2. Examples of plastics that cannot be recycled include bubble wrap, plastic bags, lolly packets and meat trays.

3. Recyclable plastics are made into a number of products including wheelie bins, fleece, helmets, hangers and pipes.



