



Food scraps such as apple cores and banana peels rot but that doesn't mean we can just throw it on the ground. Food scraps are eaten by native animals like possums, bandicoots, birds and kangaroos. If they are not eaten by animals they rot and add extra nutrients to the soil or water. Here are four reasons why this is not good.

- Food scraps attract animals to the side of the road where they could be hit by a car.
- Human food is not native animal food. Native animals can get sick from eating human food because it's not a normal part of their diet or it may have germs on it.
- Australian plants are used to growing in soil that does not have a lot of nutrients. Rotting food adds nutrients to the soil. This encourages weeds to grow. Weeds take up space, use sunlight and nutrients meant for native plants.
- Rotting food or dog waste near lakes or rivers add extra nutrients into the water. The extra nutrients cause algae to grow and choke up the waterway. Too much algae blocks the sunlight and uses up all the oxygen. This can cause fish and other water animals and plants to die.

Some non-biodegradable substances are more harmful to the environment than others. Glass or aluminium can be reused or recycled. Plastic does not biodegrade. It will break up into extremely small pieces but it will still be plastic. What is so bad about this?

1. Animals can get plastic rings or fishing line stuck around their bodies. Animals don't have hands to pull the plastic or fishing line off so it will stay there. As their bodies grow the plastic gets tighter and tighter, cutting into their skin. This can kill the animal.
2. Marine wildlife, such as fish, mistake plastic for food.
 - a. Plastic pieces floating in the sea look like little fish or plankton.
 - b. Plastic shopping bags look like jellyfish.

The plastic pieces stay in the fish, birds or turtles stomach because their bodies cannot digest it. After a while their stomachs are so full of plastic they cannot eat anymore and slowly starve to death.

TASK: Create a Poster

Now you know more about how rubbish is dangerous for marine wildlife it's time to tell others. Design and create a poster about the dangers of rubbish in the ocean that you can display around your school or local shopping centre.

Posters need to be:

- colourful
- eye-catching- use pictures to get people's attention
- informative- your poster needs to say something, always make sure your information is correct
- readable- use BIG and small writing. Make your sentences clear and to the point
- large – A3 or larger is good
- creative – use collage, newsprint, different fonts, cartoons, different types of media (pen, paint, pencil...)
- full - use the whole page.