

RIGHT A selection of products – from shampoo bottles to toys – made from recycled plastic and photographed in the boardroom of the Myplas plastics recycling factory in Cape Town.

BELOW Many locally manufactured storage bins are made from recycled plastic.



Practical things you can do

Challenging times indeed, but all is not lost. Our wasteful way of life is not sustainable, and there are many steps you can take to make a difference.

1 The biggest responsibility lies with retailers, manufacturers and brand owners who need to rethink how they deliver products to the market. As a consumer, you can put pressure on them to join the SA Plastics Pact if they haven't done so yet, and only buy products that follow the guidelines.

2 Make the right choices when you go shopping and opt for plastics that lend themselves best to reuse and recycling options. A good example is Sunlight Dishwashing Liquid: nowadays, the 750ml bottles are made of 100% recycled plastic, which, in turn, is also 100% recyclable – but unknowingly you might opt for the 750ml refill pouch. The problem is that the pouch cannot be recycled and goes straight to landfill.

3 Use reusable shopping bags and bottles for water and cooldrink.

4 Take packed lunches to work or school.

5 Support “nude” businesses and ask other retailers to explore dispensing systems that allow the consumer to bring their own containers for certain products, such as olive oil or detergents.

6 Follow the new standardised recycling instructions on the packaging by, for instance, rinsing bottles and recyclable packaging before depositing them in your recycling bin.

Flatten plastic bottles so that they take up less space in bins and trucks; they're easier to crush and process that way too. Also remember to keep the caps on so that they aren't lost and do not become litter! And then keep in mind that some items are unrecyclable in combination, such as most composite materials (all marked #7), but also a simple sticker on a plastic bread bag, or a plastic bottle with remnants of its foil lid. **P**



Cool video!

Visit our Facebook page – **f** Platteland – where we will be sharing a short video of how recycled plastic is turned into new plastic.