

Plastics and the Environment



Plastic is a threat to the environment as it is non-biodegradable. Its disposal is a big problem.

Biodegradable: Material which gets decomposed through natural processes (such as bacterial action) is called **Biodegradable**.

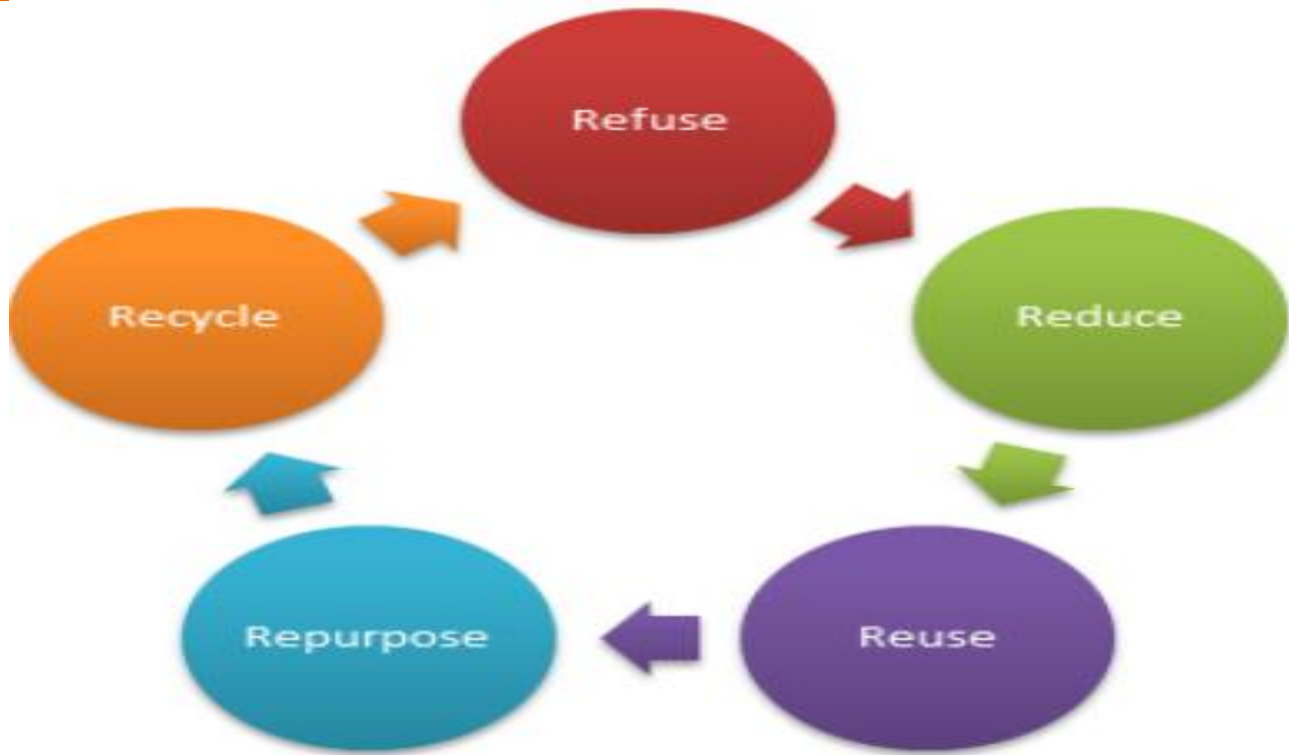
Non-biodegradable: Material which cannot be easily decomposed by natural processes is called **Non-biodegradable**.

How do plastics cause environmental pollution?

Plastics cause pollution as they:

- are non-biodegradable, and
- release toxic fumes when burnt (and hence, cause air pollution).

5 Rs to Minimize the Environmental Damage caused by Plastic



Refuse: Do not buy things we do not need.

Reduce: Minimize the use of plastics in our daily lives.

Reuse: Reuse the items we already have instead of throwing them away.

Repurpose: If we are not using something, alter or change to use it in a different way.

Recycle: Some plastic waste can be sorted and made into other things in recycling factories. This helps us to reduce our carbon footprint.

How can we minimize pollution caused by plastics at home?

We should use jute, cotton, or paper bags instead of plastics. We also need to minimize the use of plastic in our daily lives (such as using a steel lunch box instead of a plastic one). Also, we should not throw plastics on the road or in the water bodies.