

Why Reuse?

U·KONSERVE®

- U.S. plastic recycling rate is projected to drop to **4.4%** for 2018.
- **50%** of the plastic used in the U.S. is used just once then thrown away.
- There are over **five trillion** pieces of plastic, weighing more than **250,000 tons**, floating in our oceans. That's over **700** pieces of plastic per person.
- Scientists have collected up to **750,000** bits of microplastic in one square kilometer of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—that's about **1.9 million** bits per square mile. Most of this debris comes from plastic bags, bottle caps, plastic water bottles, and Styrofoam cups.
- On average, a school-age child using a disposable lunch generates **67 pounds** of lunch waste per school year (**40,000 pounds** of lunch waste per middle school).
- Packaging accounts for nearly **32%** of all household waste in the U.S.
- Americans use **500 million** plastic straws every day, which could fill over **127** school buses every day, or more than **46,400** school buses every year.
- **40 billion** plastic utensils are used every year in the U.S.
- About **25 billion** single-use coffee cups end up in landfills every year. If you use one disposable cup every day, you'll create about **23 pounds** of waste in one year.
- Every year Americans throw away **100 billion** plastic bags. Worldwide more than **one million** plastic bags are used every minute.



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