



Living without plastic?

Families in the UK throw away 40kg of plastic each year. That's like 40 big bags of sugar. Plastic takes hundreds of years to biodegrade. It is a huge problem in our oceans and in landfill.

This is a 1930s kitchen and none of the objects in it are made of plastic. How did they manage without it? Look over the page for the things we've marked to see what they are made of and how they are different today.





8

7

7

3

4

6

5



1 Bar of soap

In the 1930s everyone used bars of soap, not liquid soap in plastic bottles.

2 Milk bottles

Milk used to be delivered to your house every day in glass bottles. You washed the empty bottles and left them out to be collected and re-used.

3 Squash bottle

When you bought squash or lemonade it was in a glass bottle. You could return the bottle to the shop and get some money back.

4 Flask and sandwich box

It was unusual to buy sandwiches and eat on the go. People made sandwiches and tea at home and took them with them.

5 Shopping basket and paper bags

People carried their shopping home in a basket. Plastic bags were introduced in the late 1960s. There were very few fridges so fresh food was often bought daily. Fish and meat were wrapped in paper, vegetables were put in paper bags or loose in your basket.

6 Net cover for a jug

People used these net covers to keep flies out of milk and drinks. Cling film did not come into use until the 1950s.

7 Food packaging

Food in shops was packed in tins, glass or cardboard boxes. At home, food was kept in china storage jars.

8 Utensils

These were made of metal. Now they might be made of silicon or other plastic.

Can you name some plastic products that we could easily do without?

What would you use instead?

