

# THE STATS

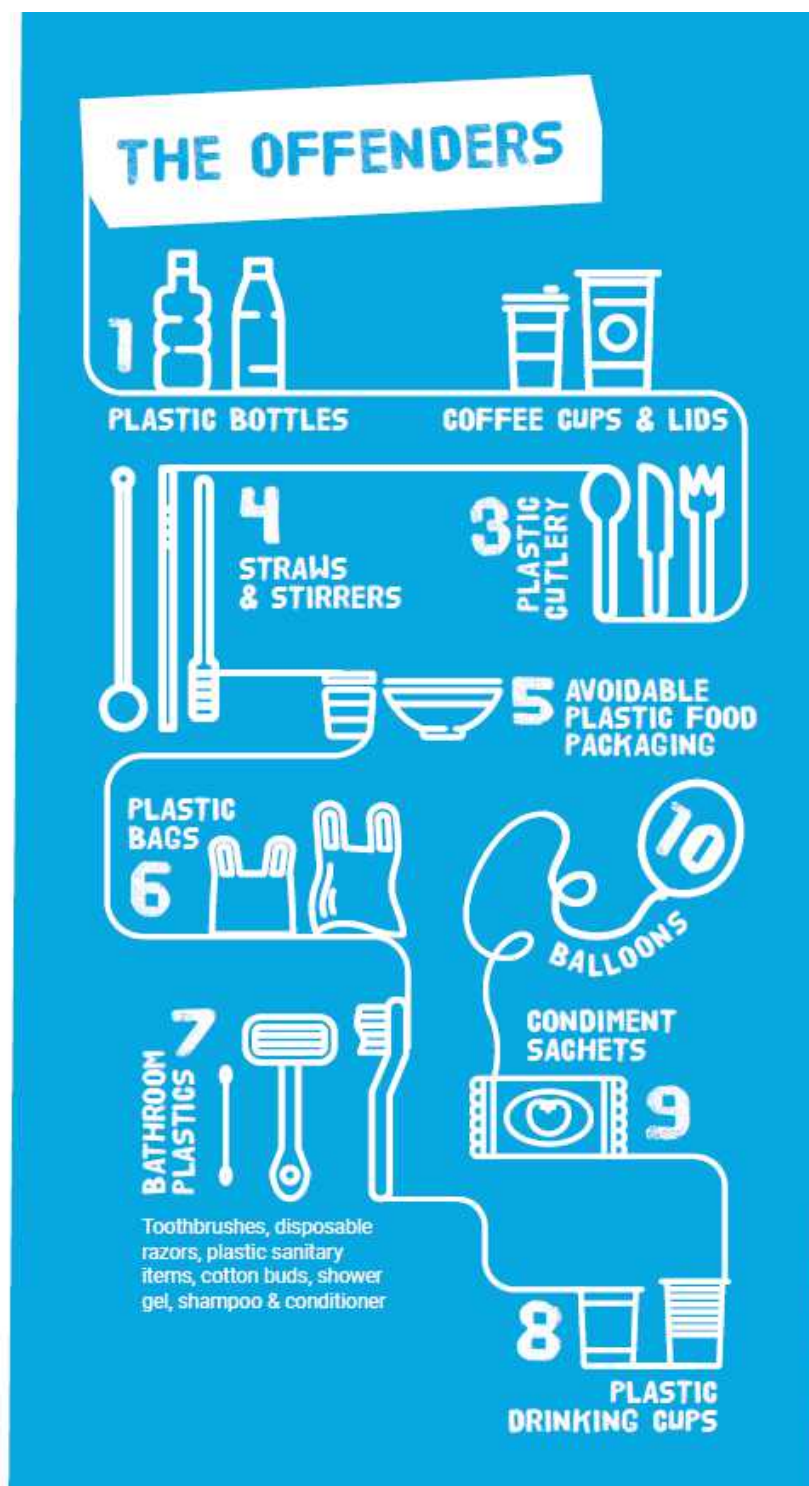
Plastic pollution has sadly become synonymous with any outdoor activity, from surfing to swimming, walking to climbing or wildlife watching – it is simply an expected part of the experience. It is an issue that connects the environment with all parts of society. It is something that we can all take action on, at every level. In fact, it is only through concrete, collective, positive action that will we be able to stop the flood of plastic pollution from overwhelming our world.

Globally, we produce almost 400 million tonnes of plastic every year. Over half of that is discarded\*, having adverse implications for our oceans, green spaces, wildlife, economy and human health. 99% of plastic is fossil fuel derived and carbon emissions from plastic production are set to more than triple by 2050\*\*

The ocean sustains us, our wellbeing and our planet. We want to create thriving oceans and thriving people. This is why plastic pollution, and specifically tackling society's throwaway culture, is a top priority for Surfers Against Sewage. It isn't just about cleaning up our environment, it's about protecting it for future generations.

\*Geyer, R., Jambeck, J. R., & Law, K. L. (2017). Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. *Science Advances*, 3(7), e1700782. <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782.full>

\*\*Stats: Centre of International Environmental Law, May 2019



1. 38.5 million plastic bottles are bought every day in the UK. Around half end up in landfill, being burnt or in the environment.
2. In the UK, we use 7 million disposable coffee cups every day.
3. Food and drink-related plastic items now make up one in every five pieces of litter.
4. Plastic straws are in the top 10 items polluting the ocean and harming marine life. As of April 2020 these have been banned.
5. UK Supermarkets distribute 112,000 pieces of plastic packaging per minute.
6. Plastic bags can kill marine wildlife by unintentional digestion or inhalation.
7. 28 wet wipes are found per mile of beach. 93% of sewer blockages are made up of wipes.
8. It's thought between five and 13 million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean every year. Refuse single-use.
9. Sachets can take 300 years to break down.
10. 1 in three seabirds which die are found to have balloons in their stomachs.