

# Nondegradable Pollutant Encyclopedia Article

## Nondegradable Pollutant

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# Nondegradable Pollutant

A pollutant that is not broken down by natural processes. Some nondegradable pollutants, like the **heavy metals**, create problems because they are toxic and persistent in the **environment**. Others, like synthetic **plastics**, are a problem because of their sheer volume. One way of dealing with nondegradable pollutants is to reduce the quantity released into the environment either by **recycling** them for **reuse** before they are disposed of, or by curtailing their production. A second method is to find ways of making them degradable. Scientists have been able to develop new types of bacteria, for example, that do not exist in **nature**, but that will degrade plastics.

## See Also

Decomposition; Pollution