

# HOW DO MANUAL TOOTHBRUSHES AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

**1 billion**  
toothbrushes

are thrown away every year in the US. That's enough to stretch around the Earth 4 times.

**50 million**  
pounds of toothbrushes  
are added to landfills

in the US annually. Manual toothbrushes are now produced with larger handles, so the amount of plastic in landfills will only increase.



**50%** of the total ecocosts  
of a manual toothbrush

are incurred during the manufacture and distribution phases.



Recently a female albatross on Hawaii was observed **trying to regurgitate** a plastic toothbrush for a chick.

Manual toothbrushes are made from **polypropylene plastic** and **nylon**, which are sourced from non-renewable fossil fuels.

## Nylon

Manufacturing nylon creates nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas **310 times more potent** than carbon dioxide.

CO<sub>2</sub>

CO<sub>2</sub>

## Polypropylene Plastic

Toothbrushes find their way into **waterways and oceans** where marine creatures can mistake them for food.

