

Book Review: Plastic: A Toxic Love Story by Susan Freinkel
By Tanis Roelofs

Greg Sidon recently sat down with an extremely interesting book, Plastic: A Toxic Love Story. Once he finished it, he sat down with Tanis Roelofs and shared his impressions over a cup of coffee.

Though plastic has literally built our modern world, in many ways it is having a profoundly detrimental effect on the planet. The book describes the development of early plastic as well as the many stages of plastic progression. Famous designers and their use of plastic in the production of furniture, cars and household items are detailed. Plastic is a very important resource in the medical field such as in kidney-dialysis.

The **dangers** of plastic include: vinyl chloride causes cancer in PVC workers, tubes used in blood transfusion sometimes contain the toxin DEHP in high doses, 260 species of animals are being killed or injured by plastic! Our oceans are being polluted by plastic. Other harmful effects are also documented.

Manufacturers are not required to list ingredients in their plastic products. The Toxic Substance and Control Act was established in 1976. However, 62,000 chemicals were exempted from testing. Also, 20,000 chemicals have been introduced since 1976, and of those, only 5 have been banned.

In 2007, San Francisco was the first U.S. city to ban plastic grocery bags. Other cities have followed suit. However, Exxon Mobil is leading the charge against this ban. Petroleum based resin manufacturers are looking at agricultural crops to replace resin products. In the future, Ford Motor Company plans to make all plastic parts from various types of compost-able *plant based plastics*. Companies are making better use of recycled plastics in their product manufacturing. Europe provides many examples of aggressive approaches to recycling.

Read Plastic: A Toxic Love Story to learn about other “green” initiatives around the world.