

Plastic Wrap vs. Beeswax Wrap

Environmental Impact of Plastic Wrap

Plastic wrap has become a staple in our kitchens, keeping food fresher for longer. It's usage is ubiquitous: "[In a six month study], nearly 80 million Americans had used at least one roll of plastic wrap, but more than five million Americans had gone through more than 10 million boxes." (National Geographic) There are several catches to this useful product, however. Plastic wrap is incredibly difficult to recycle, it can leach harmful chemicals into the environment, and it degrades at a glacial pace.

These negatives and the greater global emphasis on going green has incited the search for an alternative to plastic wrap with less impact on the environment. The firm hold, water-resistance, and disposable nature of plastic wrap is hard to replace. Many are looking towards the reusable, environmentally friendly beeswax wrap as the innovation that will help curb its use.

What are Beeswax Wraps?

Beeswax wraps are organic cotton, often with appealing designs, coated in beeswax, jojoba oil, and tree resin to create a wrap with antibacterial properties. (Good Housekeeping) To apply them, you warm the beeswax with your hands until it is pliable and then you can form it around the food or container you wish to cover. They can be cleaned with a mild soap after use and they are completely biodegradable once you are done with them.

Since they are not recommended for use with raw meat, they are not a perfect replacement for plastic wrap, but they can still lower its use. One company said their beeswax wraps "have been able to eliminate more than 100 million square feet of plastic wrap in the past two years." (National Geographic) A beeswax wrap can last around a year and many dozen uses before they need to be disposed of, reducing the environmental impact of stowing leftovers or packing a snack to go.



Works Cited

Gibbens, Sarah. "Plastic Wrap Saves Your Sandwich but Pollutes the Planet. Is There a Better Solution?" Environment, National Geographic, 3 May 2021, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

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