**Candoms - Roll-up Can Cooler**

**Life Cycle Analysis:**

To create the polyurethane rubber Candom and the plastic clamshell packaging, we must start gathering the primary resource needed, oil. To gather oil on land, roads are constructed by cutting down trees and leveling the path. The exact same procedure must be completed for the drilling pad. This leads to habitat destruction and displaces the life in that area. Drilling uses chemicals and machinery that can leak and leech into the surrounding areas polluting it creating health hazards and killing plant life. For oil under water you must ship an oilrig out to sea that takes fuel to operate as the land based machines; these are much more complex and are much more likely to leak. These rigs can also damage habitats and create degradation in addition to changing. Once the oil is collected, fuel is used to ship it to a refinery. The vehicles release CO2, NOX, SOX causing pollution that can lead to respiratory issues, acid rain and climate change. The refinery will produce these same pollutants by burning material to heat the oil to refine it. The refined product is then shipped to manufacturers to make the rubber and plastic creating more air pollutants as mentioned before and using a road system that destroyed habitats. Once the product is manufactured it has used electricity at the drilling, refining, and manufacturing stages that likely use fossil fuels obtained in the same way as the raw materials for the product causing the same problems, now on a larger scale.

The Candom is then shipped to retailers I drive to and purchase it causing additional airborne pollution to be released. I then bring it home and wrap it with paper that was created by cutting down trees with more machinery requiring more fossil fuels and emitting more airborne pollutants. The wood is transported to a paper mill where massive quantities of water and power are needed to process the pulp into paper. This water is diverted from a river causing habitat destruction at the input, the output can possibly be a different temperature water from manufacturing and contain chemicals and organic matter which may further disrupt the habitats downstream.

After opening the gift, seeing that it is stupid and serves no purpose and the laughs have already been had, it will be thrown out as soon as I turn my back. According to ecosalon, condoms made the same way as this may biodegrade but isn’t a guarantee and can rest in a dump forever. In addition, these cannot be recycled so there is no alternative to the trash.

**Alternative gift:**

Insulated water bottle; The longer it is in use the less impact it will have as it is reusable and eliminates the need for a product like I found (albeit not as fun).

**Impacts of Overconsumption:**

As seen above, the manufacturing process for this single little gag gift that is made of only one material, there are a significant number of resources needed to produce and distribute it. By over consuming and purchasing useless products like the Candom, we are introducing air pollution in the form of CO2, NOX, and SOX that can degrade human health through respiratory problems. This product also leads to deforestation and habitat destruction through the need for space to drill and build roads, splitting up habitats. It also degrades aquatic habitats through water displacement and pollution. Finally and most importantly, overconsumption does nothing to improve quality of life and in fact reduces it through all of the environmental pollution and destruction that occurs due to the manufacturing. Aside from the initial few minutes of laughter and practicing safe sips from one drink container, this product like many just gets thrown out and builds up in landfills.

