

THE PLIGHT OF PLASTIC

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TYPICAL WATER BOTTLE



ORIGIN



Oil, Coal or Natural Gas is excavated from the ground.

It is shipped to refineries where gasoline, paraffin, lubricating oils and high petroleum gases are produced.

This requires the use of petroleum powered vehicles, typically 18-wheelers, to get it there.

These gases are then broken down into monomers.

- Monomers are chemical substances consisting of a single molecule.

Raw forms of these polymers are shipped to bottle manufactures.

Using more gas
(Fox, 2010).



MANUFACTURING

The polymers are manufactured into PET plastic bottles or Polyethylene Terephthalate.

- These bottles have a recycle number of 1.

While they are BPA free they have been known to have other endocrine-disrupting chemicals such as phthalate.

(Blake, 2014)

Then the bottles are filled with water.

The water used to fill bottles is typically trucked in from somewhere else producing more needless pollution and wasting even more gas.

Then they are shipped to stores across the world for sale and consumption. Gas, Gas and Gas (Fox, 2010)

SOLUTIONS

- Use a Reusable Bottle.
- Recycle the water bottles you do use.
- Drink from the Tap.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BOTTLE?



RECYCLED

Some bottles go to actual recycle facilities and are reproduced into more plastic bottles

- The process of recycling bottles produces more pollution. (Schriever, 2013)

- Some bottles are shipped to India to be recycled and never are. (Fox, 2010)

- Some are Recycled into cheaper consumer products that end up being thrown away. (Wise, 2014)



THROWN AWAY

Most trash goes to a land fill and rarely decomposes. (Fox, 2010)

Bottles ends up in the ocean

1. The sun breaks down the chemical bonds in plastic into tiny pieces that are consumed by aquatic life.
2. We catch that aquatic life and eat it ingesting even more endocrine disrupters.

- Or it pools into the Great Pacific Garbage Patch
- Further decomposition toxifies the water killing aquatic life. (Mauleon, 2011)

Fun Facts That Aren't so Fun

- A third of all bottled water in the US is filtered tap water. (Fox, 2010)
- 17 million Barrels of oil are used to produce bottled water each year. (MSLK, 2014)
- Bottling water produces more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide (Fact Sheet, 2007)
- It takes 3 liters of water to produce 1 liter of bottled water (Fact Sheet, 2007)
- Bottles water costs 2000 times more than tap water (Fox, 2010)

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