

BOTTLED WATER FACTS

Online Education

Many people in many developing countries seek out clean drinking water with much difficulty. But developed nations such as the US spend billions of dollars buying bottled water even though their respective countries provide clean drinking water from the tap. What is more is that the plastic bottles that this water comes in create billions of pounds of oil based trash destined to live out a thousand year lifespan in a trash dump.

Bottled water - an American obsession

Americans drinking annually 8.6 billion gallons

Americans pay 10,000 times the cost of tap water for the privilege of drinking an arguably inferior product (10,000 times number - on average bottled water cost \$10 per gallon - tap water which costs \$.0015 per gallon (tenth of a penny)

Globally - 53 billion gallons of bottled water are consumed - \$63 billion dollar industry

40% of this bottled water taken from municipal water sources aka "tap water"

Less testing done on bottled water than on tap water

Unlike tap water - bottled water not tested for e. coli

Can be distributed even doesn't meet the quality standards of tap water

Bottled water not required to produce quality reports or provide source

17 million barrels of oil to produce bottled water - enough oil to fuel 1 million cars 1 year

Takes 3 times the amount of tap water to produce and fill 1 bottle of bottled water

Only 1 in 5 water bottles gets recycled - 4 go to the trash dump creating 3 billion pounds of waste in discarded plastic

National Geographic

Americans drink more bottled water than any other nation - 29 billion bottles every year.

Making all the plastic for those bottles uses 17 million barrels of crude oil annually.

That is equivalent to the fuel needed to keep 1 million vehicles on the road for 12 months.

If you were to fill one quarter of a plastic water bottle with oil, you would be looking at roughly the amount used to produce that bottle.

"National Geographic"; Drinking Water: Bottled or From the Tap?; Catherine Clarke Fox; 2011