



ELKAY[®]

Study about **pet bottles**
and its negative impact
in nature



Did you know

that

84%

of plastic bottles
will never
be recycled

WATER IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE. A GIFT OF NATURE.

A resource easily accessible for most people rural areas, and at a very low cost for urban dwellers. However, the ways we consume water has changed with time.

Over the years, people began to use tin, ceramic and glass containers and bottles to store this precious liquid of life.

During the 1980s, the conservation of water underwent it's most dramatic transformation as plastic bottles began to dominate the market.

To this date, bottled water still holds the largest share of the global market. Thus, selling bottled water became a major international business.

Before that time, it had been a tradition in many other countries around the world to offer a glass of water to patrons upon their arrival to a restaurant. It was an uncharged courtesy extended to all guests. Now, water is sold in plastic bottles at restaurants and stores alike, reaching exuberant costs.



Every day, large corporations and small bottlers consume virtual mountains of plastics to pack the vital liquid which they peddle as the cleanest form of water.

But, in the end, just how safe is it for us and for our planet to consume the bulk of our water from plastic bottles?

The plastic used for making water bottles is manufactured using a material known as P.E.T., a synthetic chemical it is believed that it might seep into the water and cause a health risk.

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Moreover, reusing these plastic bottles to refill them with fresh water or any other liquid, without proper sanitization, can pose a latent health hazard to those who use them..

In the United States alone, 50 billion bottles are produced annually, and 500 billion bottles are used each year worldwide.

Over 80% of bottles are never recycled.

These empty plastic water bottles are thrown away in garbage and buried in rubbish dumps, increasing pollution.

Roughly 4 to 12 million metric tons of plastic waste washed offshore in 2010 alone, creating what environmentalists have dubbed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a floating vortex of nonorganic waste that has turned into a garbage island extending over 36,000 square miles an area the size of Peru.



Environmentally, the indiscriminate use of plastic is an increasingly hazardous threat.

Most plastics are made from non renewable resources, extracted and processed using energy intensive techniques that destroy fragile ecosystems.

Plastic pollution has the potential to poison animals, which can, in turn, adversely affect the food chain.

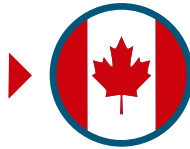
Plastic pollution has been deemed highly detrimental to large marine mammals, birds and livestock.

Even more disturbing, when these bottles are burned, they pollute the air and generate toxic gases.

MANY CITIES WORLDWIDE HAVE TAKEN ACTION AGAINST THE USE OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES.

2006 / 2009

In **Canada**, 10 cities including **Vancouver**, passed **like minded prohibitions**



2008

In December, **Toronto** the most populated city in **Canada** implemented a law **prohibiting the sale and distribution** of water bottles in all the capital and public spaces.



2009

Bundanoon in **South New Wales, Australia**, enacted a law to **ban the sale** of bottled water.



2013

Four years later, **Concord, Massachusetts**, became the first city in the United States to **ban the sale** of single serving plastic water bottles.



2014

San Francisco, California, followed suit, enacting **a similar ban**.



2015

Brookline, Massachusetts, forbid **the use of plastic supermarket bags** along with the sale of all polystyrene plastic food and beverage containers.

DOES RECYCLING ACTUALLY SOLVE THE PLASTIC BOTTLE PROBLEM?

Even when some plastic water bottles are recycled, the problem is not resolved.

To begin with, unlike glass, aluminum and paper, which are uniform in their chemical composition, plastic bottles are made of a variety of chemical compounds.

When these multivarious plastic items are melted together in a single pot, they can become unsuitable for reuse.

Although the Society of the Plastics Industry created a resin code system in 1988 which is embedded in the items to distinguish between the different plastic compositions, sorting the various bottles and other plastic goods can be time consuming and tedious.

And even those bottles that are recycled will eventually more than likely end up in a landfill.

Sadly, **only 16% of P.E.T. bottles are ever recycled.**

The remaining 80 percent will end up tossed away in fields, along highways, in rivers, lakes and oceans, along city streets and pastoral farmlands and in city dumps, where they will remain for centuries without degrading. Furthermore, the cost of recycling can be exorbitant.

Depending on the price of oil, **using recycled plastic can cost between 5 and 15 percent more than using new raw materials.**

The recycling process for P.E.T. bottles requires high energy consumption, making it more expensive for bottling industries to collect, transport and recycle used plastic containers than to create new plastic substitutes from virgin materials.

Clearly, recycling is not the solution.

Over
84%
won't be recycled

Plastic bottles take
450 years
to **biodegrade**



Only
16%
is recycled

The recycling process of pet is between **5% & 15%**
MORE EXPENSIVE
than making new bottles



Fortunately, **many private and government corporations worldwide are now turning to a more sustainable solution for their water needs.**

They are choosing new, socially responsible solutions that ensure access to fresh, clean, potable water, yet also protect the planet.

In 2010, Elkay introduced innovative bottle refilling stations.:

Elkay's ezH2O is a state-of-the-art smart drinking fountain, clean and simple to use, with a unique and universal design, low cost maintenance and vandal-proof security.

ezH2O bottle refilling stations have been installed in hundreds of locations throughout the world, including in schools, hospitals mass transportation stations and public buildings.



Elkay bottles refilling stations are the solution to getting rid of plastic water bottles at the source.



Mark Potosnak

DePaul University Professor of Environmental Science and Studies.

“When people start buying in and start making an effort to bring a water bottle around, and they make the effort to go to the refill station, not only do you save resources directly, but you put students in the mindset where they’re making a contribution.”



Elkay bottles refilling stations are a hygienic, efficient, easy to use, free and accessible alternative to disposable plastic bottles.

Elkay's efforts to improve the water consumption situation and to reduce plastic bottles usage has left a positive footprint.

Elkay is committed to continue providing safe drinking water, while reducing plastic bottle waste.

We invite you to share the Elkay spirit by switching instead to a cleaner, more environmentally friendly alternative! **Please stop using plastic bottles at:**



Educational Institutions



Indoor Fitness Centers



Parks & Recreation Areas



Factories & Warehouses



Hospitality Environments



Residential



Health-Care



Transportation Stations



Office Buildings

Please
help us
to take care
and to keep
our planet
clean

ELKAY®

What's wrong with drinking bottled water?

Did you know that ...

Plastic bottles need up to **450 years** to decompose.



8 million tons of bottles end up in the ocean.



Only **1 out of 5 bottles** plastic is recycled.



One million plastic bottles are sold every minute around the world.



25% of the water in your bottle is equivalent to the amount of fuel that was used to produce it.



90% of the cost of bottled water is due only to the container.

It also requires a huge amount of fossil fuels to transport them.

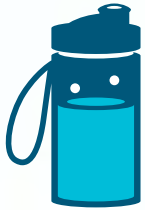




The Benefits of Reusable Water Bottles

How they help the environment

Did you know ...



Investing in a reusable water bottle helps the environment in all the ways plastic bottles harm it.



If one person switches to a reusable water bottle, 217 plastic water bottles will be saved from going to a landfill.



One stainless steel water bottle is equal to 50 plastic water in manufacturing energy consumption.



The Impact of Reusable Water Bottles



EVERY 60 SECONDS, AN INCREDIBLE 1 MILLION SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BOTTLES are bought around the world. What's even more shocking is that this number is expected to jump 20% by the year 2021.



ON AVERAGE, EVERY PERSON IN THE US WILL GO THROUGH 13 WATER BOTTLES A MONTH which is almost \$30 a month spent just on buying water bottles. By investing in a high quality reusable water bottle you could save almost \$360 a year,



A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE CAN SIT ON YOUR DESK WHILE YOU'RE AT WORK and can go to the gym with you. It'll help remind you to keep drinking and by being able to see how much you've drunk, it'll be a wake-up call if you don't drink enough!

Did you know ... **Elkay has products that can be used to fill reusable water bottles** and they can be installed in different spaces.

Sources:

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