

## Greener Day 7

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*How much water is required to produce each?*

1. Eggs- 53 gallons
2. Salad- 21 gallons
3. Smart Phone- 3190 gallons
4. Jeans- 2108gallons
5. T-Shirt- 659 gallons

*Explain why those items require the amount of water that they do.*

For my foods like salads and eggs. All the water used to make those products are either in growing the products or feeding and watering the chickens. Plants just need water, but chickens not only need water they also need water-intensive grain. For jeans I read from *ScienceDirect Journal of Clean Production* that water goes into the cotton production, grinning, spinning and weaving, cutting and finishing. After each step water is used to wash out or fine detail the jeans before moving onto the next step. T-shirts have a similar process, just less water. According to Friends of the Earth's *Mind Your Step* most of the water it takes to make a smartphone is the productions and raw material it needs. There is blue, grey and green water to break it down into categories. But overall per person with a smart phone they are leaving 3190 gallons of water in their trail.

*What surprised you about the water intensity of the items you use every day?*

I was amazed how much water I use every day. My emotions are not hurt but are low. I can't even imagine my home state losing our Great Lakes to making materials we use every day. Like how some people across the world are losing their only source of water to material production. I only researched the water usage in making my phone, eggs, salad and clothes I wear. But I know it would be more saddening to see how its used in the meat industry. Sad in a good way though. Sadness, being enough to make a difference, to self-reflect and ask myself what if we were taking this water out of our communities and our lakes? It will force me to think twice about the meals I eat and materials I have. It will force me to remind myself just because it's not us doesn't mean it's not happening elsewhere.

*What changes might you make in your own life and why, based on what you learned?*

Change in diet. That is because most of the water I use goes into the meals I eat. That will be an easy change knowing what I know now. Second, my phone! Take better care of it and not get the eligible update every two years. That saves money and precious water it takes to have the privilege of owning a phone. Third, is thrift shopping for "new" clothes. Donating my old ones and re-buying others. That way my water and carbon footprint are lowered!

*Is there a more sustainable alternative to that item or does conserving water mean cutting it out altogether? Is that feasible?*

That's a great question. I think there are solutions to both side of the question. I believe that we can cut out most water and find better and more sustainable ways to make the objects we use every day.