

Water

Day 7: Greener

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Car

13,737- 21,926 gallons



When creating a car, water is used in surface treatment and coating, paint spray booths, washing, rinsing, hosing, cooling, air-conditioning systems and boilers. Then there is the matter of wastewater. It also takes 2.5 gallons of water to refine one gallon of gasoline, which is the necessary for most cars these days.

Electricity



143 billion gallons

In order to use energy, facilities need to boil water to create steam. This steam causes the turbines to turn which generates electricity. The water isn't always reused during this process. 43% of power plants in the US use one-through cooling systems.

Plastic water bottle



45 gallons



It takes twice the amount of water in a water bottle to make the plastic that it is wrapped in. And that plastic isn't even good for the environment! That's not the point. There is water used in the packaging of the water bottles, or even drilling for the oil to make the plastic, requires water.

Toilet



33 gallons



When you use the bathroom and flush the toilet, do you think of how much water is used to pull that tiny lever down every day? And about 4-10 times a day? On average a toilet uses 18.8 gallons per person per day.

T-shirt



659 gallons

The amount of water used to make a cotton t-shirt is enough water for a person to drink for 900 days. The reason for the amount of water is because there is the essential need to grow the cotton and don't forget the need to wash it. This is an inordinate amount of the world's water being focused on the textile industry.

Knowledge, Changes, Alternatives

I did not know that only 1.5% of our water is able to be used for life on Earth. With this knowledge, it is very shocking of how easily we have access to water. The thought of me using 18.8 gallons of water just to use the bathroom surprises me because it is so simple to pull the lever and flush. Some changes I may implement is to go thrifting more and to encourage people to use reusable water bottles. The amount of water used to make cotton clothing is so unremarkable that clothes should be our number one reusable item. The amount of water used to make a plastic water bottle is unimaginable, it's almost crazy we still sell them when we have reusable water bottles to purchase. Going green is only looking better.