

“Bottled water may be a healthy and increasingly common alternative to soft drinks, but the plastic bottle turns out to have a hidden dark side: energy consumption, waste disposal, and other environmental concerns. As bottled water grows in popularity, these problems also proliferate.”

- Worldwide, bottled water consumption more than doubled between 1997 and 2005, with U.S. residents tipping back the largest share—about 7.8 billion gallons total, or 26 gallons per person in 2005.
- Bottled water costs as much as \$10 per gallon compared to less than a penny per gallon for tap water.
- It takes three liters of water to produce a one-liter bottle of water.
- Worldwide, 2.7 million tons of plastic are used each year to make water bottles, but in the U.S., less than 20 percent of these bottles are recycled.
- The total estimated energy needed to make, transport, and dispose of one bottle of water is equivalent to filling the same bottle one-quarter full of oil.
- An estimated 40 percent of bottled water sold in the U.S. is just filtered tap water.

-Water: H₂O = Life, American Museum of Natural History, <http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/water/>