



Plastic Waste

That's a lot of plastic!

By the time you finish reading this fact sheet, about 2 million plastic water bottles will have been bought around the world. Australians alone buy more than 118,000 tonnes of plastic drink bottles a year.

So what's the story with plastic bottles?

How do they end up in our oceans?



Plastic water bottles are purchased for around \$3 and are often used for just minutes before being discarded.



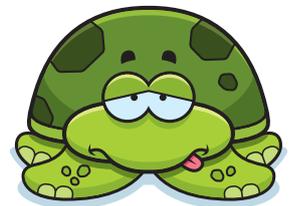
Many plastic bottles end up in landfill.



Just 18% of plastic bottles are recycled in Queensland.



The rest are discarded as litter, where they can blow into drains and make their way to the ocean.



Plastic breaks down into tiny particles in the ocean that can be mistaken as food by marine animals.

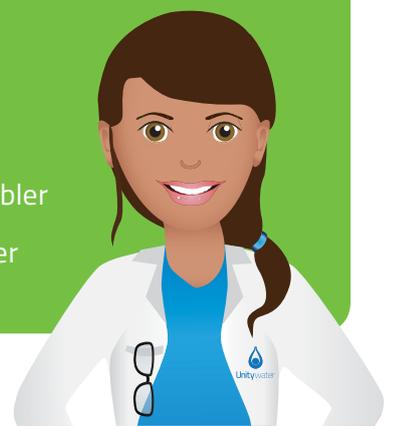


What's the solution?

Reducing our use of single-use plastics can help to prevent plastics from entering our waterways and impacting our environment and marine life.

Reducing single-use plastics is easier than you think...

- Use a reusable water bottle and fill it from the tap or bubbler
- Encourage your friends and family to use a reusable water bottle





Unitywater

Back to Tap

Why tap water makes sense



Costs less than bottled water

More than 90% of the costs of bottled water are linked to the bottle, lid and label.



Comes with no packaging

Plastic water bottles are made from crude oil, a non-renewable resource.



Is a safe and healthy choice

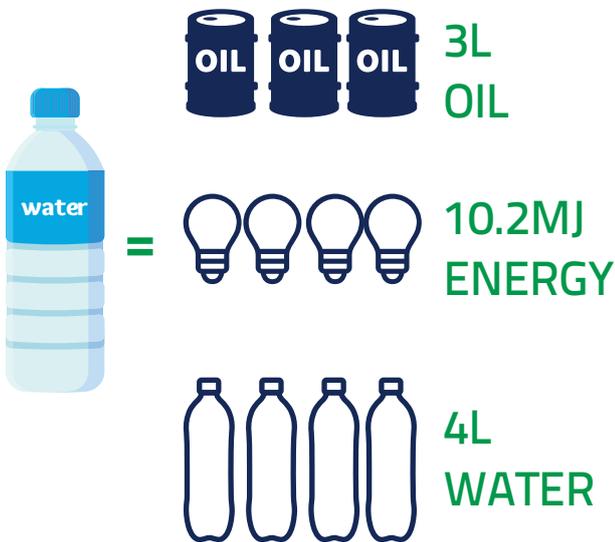
The water supplied to your tap undergoes rigorous testing to meet stringent health guidelines.



Is convenient

Unitywater supplies clean drinking water to your tap 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

What a waste!



Key things to remember

- Plastics can take more than 1000 years to bio-degrade so once they end up in landfill they're there for a very long time and often make their way into nearby waterways.
- You can save money and protect the environment by not buying single-use plastic bottles.
- Unitywater supplies safe drinking water to our homes, schools, businesses, parks and other places 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



More information:

Visit education.unitywater.com to explore the interactive urban water cycle story

Visit unitywater.com/teachers to explore:

- The Plastic Pollution videos with Tim Silverwoods
- The Story of a Plastic Bottle student activity