

The Good and the Bad – Facts about Packaging

Benefits

1. Protects contents from damage
2. Is sanitary
3. Identifies contents
4. Prevents or reduces theft
5. Provides instructions for proper use
6. Advertises product
7. Is convenient for consumer and/or retailer
8. Makes product transportable
9. Decreases waste from spoilage or handling

Consequences

1. Often ends up as litter and debris on city streets, beaches, waterways and oceans
2. Litter and debris harms and kills hundreds of thousands of birds, fish and sea mammals every year
3. Consumer energy for production (gas, oil, water, electricity)
4. Can leach chemicals and produce toxic waste
5. Consumes and wastes natural resources
6. Can mislead consumers regarding quantity and quality of product
7. Increases the cost of the product to the consumer
8. Often costly for cities to cleanup
9. Disposable packaging fills up landfills.



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CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
137 BARRE STREET, MONTPELIER, VT 05602

Adapted with permission from the SF Environment School Education Program