

Company's reuse of bottles reduces pollution

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The bottled water industry has been going green long before the term became popular.

Bermuda Waterworks, through its home and office segment, has demonstrated that it has made a significant impact on reducing pollution through the repeated use of its bottles until their useful life is completed.

Bermuda Waterworks manufactures bottled water in reusable three- and five-gallon containers. The company encourages used bottles to encourage clients to return them in good condition for a full credit on their next transaction.

At the plant, returned bottles are individually inspected. Bottles that pass this first step are then cleaned with a soap solution and warm water at high pressure.

Bottles are then rinsed with ozonated water in a sanitizing step. Bottles are then filled and capped.

Reject bottles are set aside for destruction. A fraction of the bottles are rejected because of small leaks.

However, the vast majority of bottles that are

rejected are because of neglect and misuse. Empty bottles should

only be refilled with Pure Water. They are not meant to hold trash or other liquids, for example, drink mix, these are a popular fixture at family and church picnics.

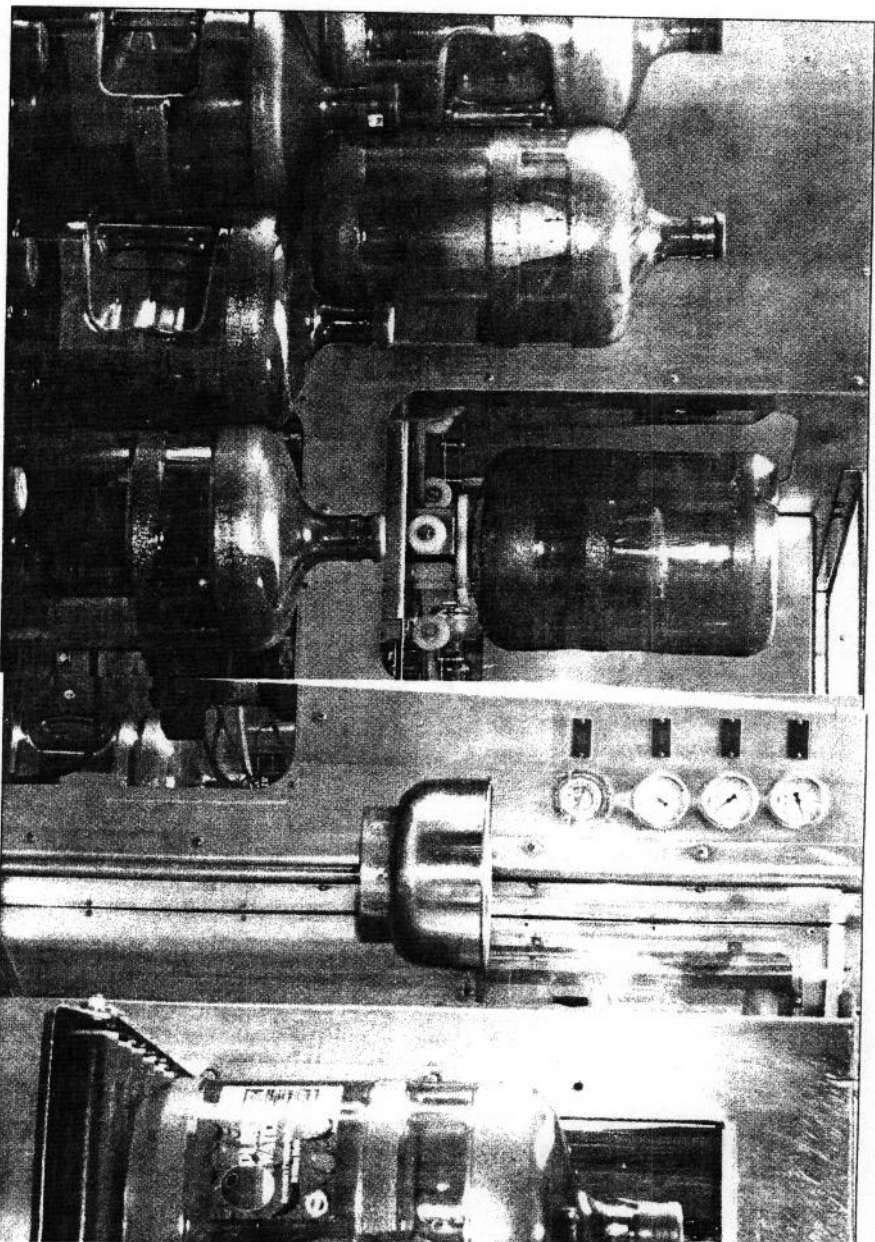
A bottle that has been used for drink mix cannot be reused at our facility. Occasionally schools and organizations require bottles for coin drives and other fundraising activities. We encourage clients to contact us if they need reject bottles that we can donate to these events.

In the last two years the company has been able to reduce waste and limit expenses by setting aside special bottles for construction sites that use bottles that are exposed to harsh environmental conditions.

Locally, tin, aluminum and glass are recycled. It is our hope that one day plastics will also be part of local recycling efforts, since our three and five gallon containers are 100 per cent recyclable.

In the United States, beverages in plastic containers are among the most recycled packaged product.

It is important to note



■ PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BERMUDA WATERWORKS
REUSABLE BOTTLES: Returned bottles in good condition are thoroughly cleaned and inspected before being refilled by the Bermuda Waterworks bottling machine.



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PURE WATER: Bermuda Waterworks manufactures bottled water under the Pure Water label.

that the material used for the manufacture of plastics is from oil that has already been used elsewhere.

In the past several years, bottled water companies have been looking at ways to reduce their environmental footprint. The bottled water industry is now using lighter weight plastics for its containers.

The amount of resin needed for the manufacture of bottles has been reduced by almost 40 per cent over five years. We encourage consumers to drink local and use a reusable bottle instead of purchasing an imported bottle that can only be used once.

Bermuda Waterworks' most popular water cooler is Energy Star rated. These coolers help residents and businesses reduce their energy bills,

but can also help make a difference for the environment.

This is because products that earn the Energy Star prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental and Protection Agency.

These energy efficient coolers are available in room temperature, cold and hot, and cold models. Bermuda Waterworks also sells water dispens-

ing equipment that does not require any electricity.

There is the very popular dolphin pump where water is manually pumped out of the bottle. There is also the compact cradle and valve that sits perfectly on any counter. The ceramic crock pot is another decorative option. All of these models dispense water at a pleasant room temperature.

Water conservation is crucial on an island that

has no natural rivers lakes. Bermuda Waterworks also provided metered water, of which two-thirds is manufactured by reverse osmosis.

This process does require electricity, however, and over time new energy efficient equipment has been installed to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. We encourage residents to use our utility water wisely as a top up supply