



The Cosmetics Industry and the Environment.

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The Cosmetics Industry.

- ◆ The cosmetics industry encompasses makeup, beauty products such as moisturizer and bathroom products.
- ◆ The cosmetics industry is worth \$532 billion dollars.

History of the Cosmetics Industry.

- ◆ Forms of makeup has been dated back to 10,000 BC and was commonly practiced by ancient Egypt.
- ◆ Early beauty ingredients were locally sourced and included berries, bugs, charcoal, and oils.
- ◆ When makeup rose to prominence in Europe, a lot of harmful ingredients were used.
- ◆ Ingredients like copper, arsenic, and various forms of lead and white lead were put in products that noble woman would wear daily.
- ◆ Once people started to discover the links between degrading health and makeup, Queen Victoria condemned the use of cosmetics in Europe in the late 1700s.





Rise in Cosmetic Popularity.

- ◇ Makeup started to gain traction in the late 1800s despite the social taboo in Europe and North America.
- ◇ Large companies started to emerge in the early 1900s. Style and standards have changed throughout the decades.
- ◇ Many companies started animal testing their products in the 1940s as a way to avoid lawsuits for possible negative side effects. Though, most countries have now outlawed animal testing.
- ◇ Mica is a common ingredient in most beauty products. In recent years, concerns on how mica is mined have come to the attention of the public.
- ◇ Most mica was sourced from India, where the majority of mines were using child labour.

Makeup and the Environment.



The chemicals in makeup products do not break down well, and when introduced to the environment, it can be harmful and toxic.



The mining of minerals and petroleum disrupts ecosystems and depletes resources.



Plastic bottles and containers are designed to not wear down with the product inside it and are often tossed out as opposed to recycled.



There is the deforestation of land that is converted into farming for ingredients used in products. The negative effects of deforestation further hurts the environment.

Makeup Alternatives.

- ◆ Swap liquid products into bar products. Liquid soap to bar soap, liquid facewash to bar facewash, etc.
- ◆ Buy from companies who use minimal packaging and biodegradable packaging.
- ◆ Aluminium packaging is easier to recycle and more likely to be recycled over plastic and glass.
- ◆ There are beauty companies that have refillable beauty products.
- ◆ Stop using cotton based facewipes that get thrown away after one use. There are washable wipes that can be reused.
- ◆ Instead of using animal hair brushes, use synthetic hair brushes.
- ◆ Switch from chemical moisturizer to vegetable oil based products.
- ◆ Buy from brands that are vegan or have viable means of being as friendly as possible to the environment.

Sources.

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