

How much oil is found in a typical office?



Invisible, but found everywhere you look: the world consumes almost 14 billion litres of oil every day. Oil is not just used to fuel our cars or for heating; it is also used in a host of everyday office items.

DRILL CORE

This drill core is 25 centimetres high, 10 centimetres in diameter and contains a good

½ litre

of oil. This is less than the amount required to produce one CD and its case.

IS OIL ONLY USED TO MAKE PLASTIC?

In Austria, about

8 eight million tonnes of crude oil

are processed each year, of which around one million tonnes is used to produce ingredients for petrochemical products.

CLOTHING

Some 40% of all textiles contain crude oil-based products, and functional garments like fleece pullovers consist almost entirely of oil-based fibres.

40%

CD/DVD

A CD and case contains more than a litre of oil. Quite a number, considering that around 625 million CDs and DVDs are thrown away every year.

More than

40 billion

CDs are manufactured each year.

STAPLER, FELT PEN, RULER

All of these contain plastic,

200 million tonnes

of which is produced worldwide every year.

PC

Nine litres of oil is used to produce a PC housing and keyboard, and two litres for a monitor. That makes a total of

11 litres.

And this does not even include a mouse, mousepad, external hard drive or scanner.

CHAIR

Oil can also be found in chairs and sofas: the insulation and foam are made from polyurethane, an oil-based product. The average sofa requires

60 litres

of oil to produce.

CARPET

Carpets made from synthetic fibres are real oil-guzzlers: a six-square-metre piece of carpet contains

22.5 litres

of oil.

PACKAGING

Staples, adhesive tape and Post-its – many of these items go into a plastic bag when we buy them. Every plastic bag is made of

0.04 litres

of oil.

RUBBISH

In purely mathematical terms any household can heat their home with 1 tonne of the rubbish they produce over a year. The energy value of 1 tonne of rubbish equals around

160 litres

heating oil.