



## Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things

By John C. Ryan, Alan Durning

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**Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things** By John C. Ryan, Alan Durning

Stuff follows a day in the life of a fictional, typical North American middle-class resident of Seattle. Nothing terribly unusual or dramatic happens. Unless you count average consumption—which Stuff does. Tracing back the layers of distribution, commerce, and production involved in everyday consumer goods Stuff is an engaging and fact-packed look at the people and places that are affected every time you sip your coffee, tie your shoes, click your mouse, step on the gas, or read a book.

In the process, you'll find that what happens around the world to support a day in the life of an average northwesterner is not only dramatic, but disturbing. If you don't know your stuff—and their secret lives—you don't know your world.

Years after it was originally published, Stuff has sold more than 60,000 copies, and is read and taught in schools around the world. Most recently Stuff has been translated into Chinese and Korean, and has been used by Wal-Mart to educate their buyers about product life cycles.

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## **Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things** By John C. Ryan, Alan Durning Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"...A lively and mind-boggling investigation of what goes into the 120 pounds of resources we each consume every day. You can read it and be horrified by the impact of our consumption or read it and marvel at the complexity of modern commerce, depending on your outlook." -- *Susan McGrath, The Household Environmentalist, Seattle Times*,, 5/11/97

"*Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things* is a book I always wanted to write. It is a call to explore the possibility that 'less stuff can mean more happiness.'" -- *Asta Bowen, Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 3/17/97

"Documenting a day in the life of the average North American consumer, *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things* deconstructs the American Dream by unraveling the hidden costs behind the objects around us. From our morning cup of Columbian coffee to our South Korean-made sneakers, the book traces the environmental impact of the consumer decisions most of us make without thinking. Authors John C. Ryan and Alan Thein Durning of Seattle's Northwest Environment Watch tell us greenhouse gases produced in making one burger are equivalent to those emitted in a six-mile drive to the burger joint. Only occasionally verging on preachiness, this readable 88-page book is definitely worth the paper it's printed on." -- *Mother Jones, September/October 1997*

"Wow! Great Stuff!" -- *Bill McKibben, author of Hope, Human and Wild*

#### From the Publisher

Number 4 in Northwest Environment Watch's series of short, hard-hitting books on creating a sustainable society

#### From the Author

Parts of *Stuff* are available paper free, and free of charge, on the World Wide Web (at [northwestwatch.org](http://northwestwatch.org)). Reading it on a desktop computer for an hour takes one-fourth to one-tenth as much energy (depending on your computer and its source of electricity) as went into producing each paper book, which is good. But reading it on your computer produces no revenue whatsoever for Northwest Environment Watch, which is bad.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Micheal Mata:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question simply because just their can do this. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this particular *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things* to read.

### **William Rice:**

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### **Gloria Pruitt:**

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