



GO ON THE CRUDE AWAKENING

Oil Age House Hunt

The Stone Age turned into the Iron Age when iron was discovered. The Bronze Age came next as people learned how to make alloys - mixing together metals such as copper and brass. **Now we live in the Oil Age. We are Oil Age people.** Since the first oil well was drilled in 1849, the cheap and abundant supply of oil has led to the car culture, suburban sprawl, our wasteful lifestyles, and the creation of more than 500,000 products that use oil as a feedstock. These include most plastics, synthetic or "manmade" fibres, fertilizers and pesticides. Roads and asphalt shingles are made with oil. Making an average-sized car uses about 85 barrels of oil. Our food is grown with farm machinery that is manufactured with oil, and runs on oil. Almost everything we use is transported by ships, trucks, planes and trains that run on oil.

Start your Oil Age House Hunt

Go outside your home and start making a list of everything on the house and in the garden that is made from oil. Next, go through every room in your home adding to your list as you go. Remember that most plastics are made from oil. You will be very surprised by how many Oil Age products you will find! Here a just a few examples:

Hunt down the products that are made from oil in your own home and you'll see how dependent upon oil we have become over the past 157 years.

Outside your home

Driveway (asphalt)
Roof (asphalt shingles)
Downspouts and eavestroughs
Porch
Vinyl windows, shutters and doors
Weatherstripping, Caulking
Paint, stains, etc.
Doorbell
Light fixtures
Mailbox
Welcome mat
Garbage bin and recycle boxes
Planters
Garden hose
Snow shovel
Gardening implements
Lawn and deck furniture
Wading pool
Play structure
Astroturf

Car

Tires
Bumpers
Seats
Roof rack
Dashboard, trim inside car, car mats
Containers of windshield washing liquid, anti-freeze, oil, grease, etc.

Ice scraper
Windshield wipers
Flashlights, emergency lights, light fixture covers
Tools
Child safety seats

Now go into your front door and continue your list, making a separate heading for each room.

Vestibule

Flooring (vinyl, carpet of manmade fibres, etc.)
Closet doors
Drapes
Blinds
Hooks
Clothes hangers
Picture frames
Planters and plant hangers
Paint and stain
Shoes and boots
Clothing

Living Room

Entertainment centre (TV, VCR, DVD player, turntable, video games player, etc.)
VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, audio tapes, records
Drapes and blinds
Flooring (manmade tiles and carpets)
Sofas, armchairs (upholstery fabric, cushions, foam and fibre-fill stuffing, etc.)

Picture frames
Clocks
Switch and socket covers

Home Office

Computer (PC, keyboard, mouse, mousepad, etc.)
Diskettes, CDs
Scanner, Printer, etc.
Desk lamp
Desk and chair
Picture frames
Pens, markers, erasers, pen holders, etc.
Three-ring binders
Staplers
Plastic paper clips
Clocks
Power bars and extension cords
Shelving
Sticky tape

Bathroom

Shower stall, bathtub, sink, taps
Flooring
Vanity surface
Shower curtains
Containers for toiletries and medications (shampoo bottles, cosmetics, cleaners, etc.)
Toothbrush and soap holders
Toothpaste tubes
Shower tidies
Bathmats, non-slip bathtub mats
Towel rail and hooks
Toilet bowl brush and holder
Mirror and picture frames
Nail and hair brushes, combs
Hair dryer

Kitchen

Vinyl flooring
Utensils
Fridge lining, drawers, etc.
Ice cube trays
Water bottles
Containers for food, sauces, etc.
Lids on glass jars and coffee cans
Dishwasher lining and drawers
Toaster
Oven knobs and dials
Microwave
Washing up bowl
Disposable cutlery and plates
Reusable mugs
Plastic containers

Mixing bowls
Plastic cups
Countertop
Plastic garbage and food bags
Toothpicks
Containers for cleaners
Clock
Smoke detector
Scouring pads
Fridge magnets

Bedrooms

Furniture
Flooring
Crib, changing table, diaper bags
Drapes and blinds
Toys (hard and soft plastics, and stuffed animals)
Games, balls, balloons
Picture and mirror frames
Closet doors and clothes hangers
Clothing and accessories
Shelving
Alarm clock, radio, stereo, etc.
Beads, bangles, hair bands, and ribbons

Basement

Laundry appliances (doors, lids, dials, knobs, etc.)
Storage bins, shelving
Flooring
Smoke detector
Clothes lines and pegs
Winter boots and jackets

Other

Camping and sports equipment, backpacks
Supplies for crafts
Photographic equipment, binoculars, telescopes, projectors
Bicycle seats, tires, lights, reflectors, etc.
Picnic items - cooler, hamper, etc.
Power and hand tools
Christmas lights, trees and ornaments
Musical instruments

See? – we really are Oil Age People !

Why not get your friends, neighbours and colleagues to do their own Oil Age House Hunt? How about having your class go on an Oil Age Hunt at school, or holding a school contest to see who can find the most Oil Age products at home?

And then start finding alternatives to oil! You'll find lots of ideas and peak oil information on our website.