

Oil is essential to our everyday life. In 2019 we used up 100 million barrels just like this every day, mostly **to fuel** the cars, planes, and ships that move us and our goods around the world. Then there's a fair bit that goes into power generation, heating buildings, and other industrial uses. So, what about the rest of it? This is where our oil dependency becomes even less visible. Because honestly, it goes into **all kinds of stuff**.

If you refine the oil, you get products that go into making **petrochemicals** such as ethylene and propylene.

Petchems are in everything, from plastic bags, toothbrushes, and food packaging, to detergents, paint, cosmetics, and **mattress foams**. More than 16 per cent of oil demand will be for **non-combustive uses** like these alone, and a big share of that is put into single-use plastics. This is definitely an area we can cut back on.

In here, there's about two weeks of plastic consumption, **if our video team is anything to go by**. Most societies are starting to take recycling seriously, at least in the west, and vendors everywhere are promising to use less plastic. But this isn't the whole story. Petrochemicals are used in clothes. **High-street retailers** make and sell huge amounts of synthetic materials, and a whole other branch called aromatics are essential for drugs - like aspirin or ibuprofen. Oil is in our medicines.

Now making these products isn't quite the same as burning fossil fuels as we do in cars, but they do cause pollution hazards of their own. And to manage plastic waste, it's often incinerated, releasing carbon dioxide emissions at that point, too. This is why we need to be honest with ourselves about how **embedded** oil is into our everyday life. Experts say we'll have **to curb** our addiction to oil if we're going to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. But **kicking our habit** is going to take more than just changing the cars we drive. So the sooner we start, the better.

To fuel = alimenter en énergie

all kinds of stuff = toutes sortes de choses

petrochemicals= produits pétrochimiques
Petchems=abbreviation petrochemicals
Mattress foams = mousses pour matelas
non-combustive uses = usages non combustibles, non-carburants

if our video team is anything to go by = si on peut se référer à notre équipe vidéo

High-street retailers = détaillants (sur la rue principale de chaque ville : US « main street »)

to embed = intégrer, encaster
to curb = limiter

to kick a habit = se débarrasser d'une habitude (jarter une habitude)