

TABLE 11.2 American Trash

SOME BASIC DATA AND COMMENTS ON AMERICAN TRASH

Total pounds of trash created per person, per day:	7.1 pounds
Yearly loads of garbage trucks:	enough to fill a line of trucks that reaches halfway to the moon
Percentage of world's waste created by Americans:	25%
Money spent on waste management:	more than on fire protection, parks and recreation, libraries, and schoolbooks
Number of water bottles discarded each day:	about 60 million
Aluminum discarded each year:	"enough to rebuild the entire commercial air fleet four times over" (Humes 2012)
Plastic wrap discarded each year:	enough to shrink-wrap Texas
Wood deposited in landfills each year:	enough to heat 50 million homes for 20 years

Source: Based on Humes 2012.