

## Quality

How much of what's on the shelves at Walmart took longer to get from China to Walmart than it takes to get from Walmart to the landfill? If you need to buy it twice as often, that's %100 inflation and twice the pollution. With twice the initial investment in labor and materials, a lot of what's in the landfill could have lasted ten times as long. It's not just China, and it's not just Walmart. Our lack of durable, repairable products is a major part of our headlong rush to environmental disaster.

60 years ago you could buy a washing machine for about the same inflation adjusted price as what's on the market today. The machine from the '60s produced much less pollution in its manufacture, was easily recycled, and lasted about 30 years. Today's washing machines have a much higher environmental footprint, and last about 5 years before the computers fail and they get scrapped. The three worst things you can do to a computer are get it wet, shake it, and hit it with voltage spikes. That's a washing machine.

Throughout the infrastructure of this civilization, our obsession with high tech has become a major factor in our level of pollution, resource depletion, and wasted time and energy. Our many addictions to the toys and conveniences afforded by high tech are not sustainable, and the convenience is often an illusion. There's nothing fun or convenient about the floods, droughts, and fires of climate change or the many diseases caused by the massive pollution of our environment. There's nothing fun or convenient about poisoning our oceans and rivers. There's nothing fun or convenient about an aquifer that runs dry.

Conventional capitalism has almost eliminated quality throughout the world. The vast majority of humanity has suckered for the cheapest price, without the foresight to connect consumption with global warming and all the other forms of pollution.