

Environmental Resources Management Study Advocates Putting Hydration Reservoirs in the Dishwasher to Reduce Environmental Impact, GEIGERRIG Says



Curt Geiger, President of Geigerrig® Hydration Packs says, “If it’s environmentally sound for reusable water bottles, then it’s environmentally sound for hydration reservoirs.”

A recent lifecycle assessment study conducted by Environmental Resources Management, third party reviewed, and sponsored by Rubbermaid® concluded that Reusable Water Bottles requiring hand-washing have a higher environmental impact than those that are dishwasher safe (PR Newswire, Nov. 28, 2012). The results of this study are further recognized in the corporate *social responsibility* declarations of Camelbak® specifying, among other things, the steps Camelbak has taken to eliminate bottled water and the environmental waste it generates: “*Our bottles are dishwasher safe. The dishwasher uses half the energy, one-sixth the water and less soap vs. hand washing.*” So do these results hold true for the cleaning of hydration reservoirs as well? Geigerrig, the developers of today’s pressurized hydration systems, hydration packs, and plug-and-play in-line filters, say “Yes”.

The lifecycle assessment study concluded that the household washing of reusable water bottles represents the largest component of a bottle’s environmental impact because the energy needed for residual water heater is much higher than the electricity consumption for a dishwasher when washing the same amount of place settings. This environmental impact differential is greatly expanded when considering the inconvenience and hot-water use associated with the required hand cleaning of today’s traditional 2-3 liter hydration reservoirs vis-a-vis the standard 20-30 ounce reusable water bottles. Traditional hydration reservoirs have tubes, bite valves, screw caps, and large flexible membranes that require a greater volume of hot-water use for hand cleaning; and to help address these considerations, companies like Camelbak recommend the purchase and use of their multi-piece plastic cleaning kits to help execute a multi-stage hand-cleaning process. The result is more hot-water use during cleaning; more plastic *stuff* that gets discarded, broken and lost; and a level of inconvenience that too often results in throwing away the entire reservoir in favor of buying a new, clean one. However, the pressurized hydration reservoirs from Geigerrig fully adopt Camelbak’s conscientious environmental standard for cleaning water bottles and for doing away with bottled water: The Geigerrig® hydration reservoirs, unlike their predecessors, can be reversed and cleaned in the top shelf of the dishwasher, have drastically improved filtration capabilities, and therefore pose a much reduced environmental impact.

It is true that the eradication of bottled water requires reusable hydration products and easy, on-the-go, in-line filtration. Geigerrig is proud to lead this effort in the world of hydration packs.