

# Water in Industry

**THE AMOUNT OF WATER USED IN INDUSTRY IS GROWING STEADILY EACH YEAR. AS MORE COUNTRIES DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY, MORE WATER WILL BE NEEDED FOR INDUSTRIAL USE.**

Water is important in industry. In fact, about 20 percent of all the water we use around the world is for industrial purposes.

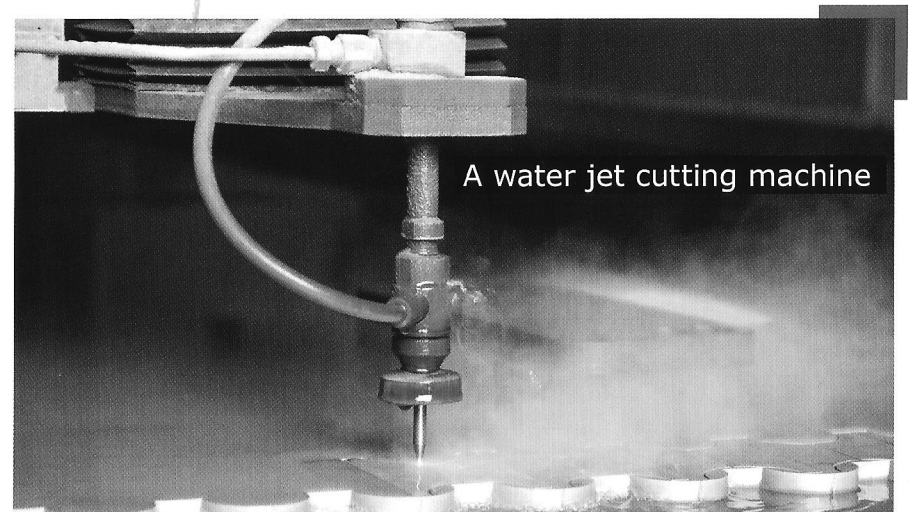
We need water in every step of the industrial process. For example, sometimes water is needed in the production of food items like soft drinks, soups, and juices. And we also need it for things like soap, shampoo, paint, and cleaning liquids. But did you know that water is required for the production of plastic and glass? Water is even used when making cars! It takes about 2,000 liters of water to make one car tire! It sounds unbelievable, but it's true.

We need tools to make things, and water can also be used as a tool. For example, water is often used to cut things.

When a line or jet of water is shot out at a high speed and under high pressure, it can be very strong – strong enough to cut through glass, metal, and stone. Because of this, water jet cutting machines are used in industries like mining and aerospace to cut things to the right shape. Water jets are also used at the dentist's office to help us keep our teeth clean. Fortunately, they're not as strong as the ones used to cut stone or metal!

Water is also used in industry as a lubricant – something that can help prevent machines from wearing out when their parts move against each other. Right now, most industrial lubricants are made with oil, but because using oil in this way is not good for the environment, inventors are developing water-based lubricants.

Because water is inexpensive and easy to get, it is also used as a coolant – to cool down the moving parts of machines in factories and power plants.



A water jet cutting machine