

Blowing the Lid off Bottled Water

Insurance for your drinking water Home Remedies Through Water Filtration

Trouble at the Tap...

Just how safe IS our tap water? Many scientists and research organizations say there is reason for serious concern. In fact, it's downright scary.

According to the non-profit research organization Environmental Working Group (EWG) based in Washington, D.C., "tap water in 42 states is contaminated with more than 140 unregulated chemicals that lack safety standards." This is in addition to 119 "regulated" chemicals also evident.

The unprecedented nationwide compilation of tap water testing results revealed widespread contamination of drinking water with scores of contaminants for which the EPA has never considered the risks -- or if it has, for whatever reason has failed to come up enforceable limits.

Released just last December, the most comprehensive **picture of tap water quality ever created paints a dire picture.** Examples of contaminants found in drinking water includes gasoline additives, the rocket fuel component perchlorate, and a variety of industrial solvents. The pollution affects more than one hundred million people.

A front page article (*An Aging System, And Officials Have Been Less Than Forthcoming With the Public*) in the Madison, Wisconsin State Journal on April 31 depicts a far too common scenario: "Students at East High School were among the roughly 9,000 people who, for a short time at least, were drinking city water contaminated with high levels of an industrial pollutant that can cause liver, kidney or lung damage."

It goes on to explain how viruses and pharmaceuticals, such as antidepressants and birth control drugs, are among a growing list of so-called emerging contaminants, powerful new pollutants that are rarely tested for and not regulated by the EPA. They are of concern in both private wells and municipal water supplies.

What Can You Do to Help Protect Your Family?

The best way to get cleaner and safer drinking water is to use one of the many different types of water filters and systems available (reverse osmosis, faucet mounted, whole house, etc.). According to Consumer Reports, "Filtering your tap water gives you control over what's removed from the water you drink."

According to Ray Scardigno of FiltersFast.com, the type that will work best for your household should be based on your particular needs.

"There are a number of credible organizations that can help make the decisions easier," said Scardigno.

To find out what filter system is best for you, check out these popular sources:

To see the landmark Environmental Working Group's national assessment of drinking water quality: <http://www.ewg.org/tapwater/findings.php>

For an explanation of the various filtering processes by the National Resources Defense Council:
<http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/default.asp>

To find filters for all brand (less than retail prices, even with shipping):
<http://www.FiltersFast.com>

To View and Post Questions on Water Filtration Forums and Get Answers from Water Filter Experts visit <http://www.FiltersFast.com/Forums>

Bottled Water, Another Solution?

According to the EPA, as well as many respected non-profit environmental, scientific and governmental organizations, bottled water is not necessarily safer than tap water.

In fact, bottled water often IS tap water. The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), a respected environmental watch dog which has monitored the bottled water industry for years, reports that, "According to government and industry estimates, about one fourth of bottled water is bottled tap water (and by some accounts, as much as 40 percent is derived from tap water)..."

Yet bottle water companies spend millions of dollars on misleading ads. Reports ABC News's John Stossel, "The labels of the bottled waters do suggest

they're special. Some show mountains or polar bears or glaciers. You have to look at the fine print to find out Everest Water is not from Mount Everest. It's from Corpus Christi, Texas. Glacier Clear Water is not from a glacier in Alaska. Its source is tap water from Greeneville, Tennessee."

What about two of the biggest sellers? "Big-selling Dasani and Aquafina are also just reprocessed tap water from cities around the country. One of Aquafina's sources is the Detroit River!" says Stossel. "Bottom line, if you buy bottled water because you think it's healthier than tap, test after test shows no evidence of that. And if you buy fancy brands because you think they taste better, you're probably just buying the hype."

Unlike tap water, the quality of finished bottled water is not government-monitored, says the EPA. "Studies have shown that microbes may grow in the bottles while on grocers' shelves."

A widely quoted study by the NRDC, usually a public drinking water critic, found "About one third of the bottled waters we tested contained significant contamination."

"No one should assume that just because water comes from a bottle that it is necessarily any purer or safer than most tap water," says the council.

So why are people paying 240 to 10,000 times more for bottled water than we do for tap? Because advertisers are taking advantage of consumer fears over drinking water.

"Bottled water is a 10 billion dollar a year industry," said Scardigno. "It's a trend fueled largely by unfounded fears and false claims."