5 Reasons Not to Drink Bottled Water

By Chris Baskind
Tuesday, 19 June 2007

Bottled water is healthy water -- right?

That's what the marketers would have us believe. Just look at the labels or the bottled water ads: deep, pristine pools of spring water; majestic alpine peaks; healthy, active people gulping down icy bottled water between biking in the park and a trip to the yoga studio.

In reality, bottled water is just water. That fact isn't stopping people from buying a lot of it. Estimates variously place worldwide bottled water sales at between $50 and $100 billion each year, with the market expanding at the startling annual rate of 7 percent.

Bottled water is big business. But in terms of sustainability, bottled water is a dry well. It's costly, wasteful, and distracts from the brass ring of public health: the construction and maintenance of safe municipal water systems.

Want some solid reasons to kick the bottled water habit? We've rounded up five to get you started.

Bottled water isn't a good value

Take, for instance, Pepsi's Aquafina or Coca-Cola's Dasani bottled water. Both are sold in 20 ounce sizes and can be purchased from vending machines alongside soft drinks -- and at the same price. Assuming you can find a $1 machine, that works out to 5 cents an ounce. These
two brands are essentially filtered tap water, bottled close to their distribution point. Most municipal water costs less than one cent per gallon.

Now consider another widely-sold liquid: gasoline. It has to be pumped out of the ground in the form of crude oil, shipped to a refinery (often halfway across the world), and shipped again to your local filling station.

In the U.S., the average price per gallon is hovering around $3. There are 128 ounces in a gallon, which puts the current price of gasoline at fraction over 2 cents an ounce.

And that's why there's no shortage of companies which want to get into the business. In terms of price versus production cost, bottled water puts Big Oil to shame.

No healthier than tap water

In theory, bottled water in the United States falls under the regulatory authority of the Food and Drug Administration. In practice, about 70 percent of bottled water never crosses state lines for sale, making it exempt from FDA oversight.

On the other hand, water systems in the developed world are well-regulated. In the U.S., for instance, municipal water falls under the purview of the Environmental Protection Agency, and is regularly inspected for bacteria and toxic chemicals. Want to know how your community scores? Check out the Environmental Working Group's National Tap Water Database.
While public safety groups correctly point out that many municipal water systems are aging and there remain hundreds of chemical contaminants for which no standards have been established, there's very little empirical evidence which suggests bottled water is any cleaner or better for you than its tap equivalent.

**Bottled water means garbage**

Bottled water produces up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste per year. According to Food and Water Watch [http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/bottled], that plastic requires up to 47 million gallons of oil per year to produce. And while the plastic used to bottle beverages is of high quality and in demand by recyclers, over 80 percent of plastic bottles are simply thrown away.

That assumes empty bottles actually make it to a garbage can. Plastic waste is now at such a volume that vast eddies of current-bound plastic trash now spin endlessly in the world's major oceans. This represents a great risk to marine life, killing birds and fish which mistake our garbage for food.

Thanks to its slow decay rate, the vast majority of all plastics ever produced still exist somewhere.

**Bottled water means less attention to public systems**

Many people drink bottled water because they don't like the taste of their local tap water, or because they question its safety.

This is like running around with a slow leak in your tire, topping it off every few days rather than taking it to be patched. Only the very affluent can afford to switch their water consumption to bottled sources. Once distanced from public systems, these consumers have little incentive to support bond issues and other methods of upgrading municipal water treatment.

There's plenty of need. In California, for example, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimated the requirement of $17.5 billion in improvements to the state's drinking water infrastructure as recently as 2005. In the same year, the state lost 222 million gallons of drinkable water to leaky pipes.
The corporatization of water

In the documentary film Thirst, authors Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman demonstrated the rapid worldwide privatization of municipal water supplies, and the effect these purchases are having on local economies.

Water is being called the "Blue Gold" of the 21st century. Thanks to increasing urbanization and population, shifting climates, and industrial pollution, fresh water is becoming humanity's most precious resource.

Multinational corporations are stepping in to purchase groundwater and distribution rights wherever they can, and the bottled water industry is an important component in their drive to commoditize what many feel is a basic human right: the access to safe and affordable water.

What can you do?

There's a simple alternative to bottled water: buy a stainless steel thermos, and use it. Don't like the way your local tap water tastes? Inexpensive carbon filters will turn most tap water sparkling fresh at a fraction of bottled water's cost.

Consider taking Food and Water Watch's No Bottled Water Pledge. Conserve water wherever possible, and stay on top of local water issues.

Want to know more? Start with the Sierra Club's fact sheet on bottled water.

Bottoms up!

Image credit: Wikimedia

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This article is no longer open for comments.

Readers have left 63 comments.

1. Untitled
Anonymous, Guest

Thanks ! More people should be aware that bottled water isn't all it's made out to be.

(former bottled water lover)

Posted 2007-06-20 02:25:36

Jari Sutinen, Guest

And it's not enough water is sold in a bottle. It must be flavoured. Raspberry, peach, apple, blueberry... In some stores water tasting like water is hard to find. I'm living in a country where water is not a problem - yet. Still I have a chance to buy imported bottled water. Smart, isn't it.

Posted 2007-06-20 02:45:34

Grigor, Guest

Thanks for very informative article.
You're right saying that water is big business. Here is one, almost absurd example. On a flight from Munich to Kiew by a big airline, I've been served with water bottled in USA. Imagine how much money went just to cover expenses that are not related to water itself: packaging, transport from USA to Europe, waste disposal or recycling...

Posted 2007-06-20 06:03:21

Hemant, Guest

http://www.i-am-bored.com/bored_link.cfm?link_id=23701

And now there is a bottled water called "diet water" with 0 calories

Posted 2007-06-20 06:12:46

rox, Guest

isn't there too much chalk in the tapwater? it leaves chalk-residue ???

Posted 2007-06-20 07:38:55
6. **Untitled**  
**somone**, Guest

well when i drink bottled water it dosent taste weird like tap water so if people enjoy drinking it well let them. in some parts of some countries people have no choice but to drink this water.

On the other hand i think the article is very amusing and i agree and beleive nearl all of the statments made. Thanks 😊

Posted 2007-06-20 08:16:44

7. **Untitled**  
**Jeff Lubrano**, Guest

Bottled water is very good for ONE thing : they are very convenient for shipping. So pack them up and send them to countries where people really and desperately NEED water. And as far as we are concerned : drink the water you find in every kitchen, and filtrate it if you like...

Posted 2007-06-20 11:03:11

8. **Untitled**  
**Sally**, Guest

Thank you for this article - I was brought up in Hong Kong, where I was used to water rationing and conservation. Living in Toronto, my boyfriend still asks me why I constantly turn the tap on and off when I brush my teeth and wash my face, and use the baby's bathwater to rinse out his soapy clothes and scrub the tub. When you have plenty, you don't learn to conserve it.

Water conservation should be taught as a basic skill, just like the way I learned it - from a generation of men and women who are used to only getting water certain hours of the day during the dry seasons. We're not preparing our children very well for the future in this respect, unfortunately.

Posted 2007-06-20 13:17:30

9. **Untitled**  
**Arun Zechariah**, Guest
Thanks for the article.

One can obtain water bottled in France or Canada here in the US and am certain that US-bottled water is available there 😊 bottled-water deficit balance 😊

Posted 2007-06-20 16:49:10

10. Untitled
Arun Zechariah, Guest

Thanks for the article.

One can obtain water bottled in France or Canada here in the US and am certain that US-bottled water is available there 😊 bottled-water deficit balance 😊

Posted 2007-06-20 16:50:36

11. Untitled
i, Guest

It's a good alternative to another bottled beverage. We filter at home, but while out, it's a necessity. And, we always recycle.

Posted 2007-06-20 17:05:11

12. Untitled
Kate Le Texier, Guest

EVIAN SPELT BACKWARDS = NAIVE

SAYS IT ALL REALLY!!!

Posted 2007-06-21 09:08:07

13. Untitled
Jeremy, Guest

Great article.

Another thing many folks do not know is that bottled water is often nothing more than the exact same water that you get from your very own tap. Local water bottlers (ones who do not cross state lines, in particular) often bottle water straight from municipal systems that get their water supply from the surrounding springs and mountain sources, and then slap
labels on the bottles claiming to be from all natural sources, filtered, and so forth. "Filtered," "Mountain Fresh," and, "Fresh from the Spring" are types of slogans that are true - because that is where the municipal water system gets it from!

14. Untitled

Vio, Guest

I agree with everything, but Poland Spring makes home delivery and once you're done with the bottles, you give them back to the company to be re-used. What is wrong with this?

Posted 2007-06-21 22:17:58

15. Untitled

Susie, Guest

Hello Chris, great article. I used a portion of this article on my blog post today and quoted you as the source. I used to be water bottle fanatic but I have stopped ... Brita works just as well for us. Thanks for the great info!

Posted 2007-06-22 04:31:31

16. Untitled

Susie, Guest

Hello Chris, great article. I used a portion of this article on my blog post today and quoted you as the source. I used to be water bottle fanatic but I have stopped ... Brita works just as well for us. Thanks for the great info!

Posted 2007-06-22 04:32:03

17. Untitled

Susie Kim, Guest

Hi Chris, excellent article (I tried to leave a comment before but not sure if you got it) I used a part of the article on my blog post today and sourced you... I used to be a bottle water fanatic but I have switched Brita water and works just as well. Thanks for a great resource.

Posted 2007-06-22 04:47:22
18. **Untitled**  
**Trebor**, Guest

I hate the notion of buying bottled water...it's pure stupidity. I always use the gas price one as an example when arguing my point 😊

Posted 2007-06-22 21:54:28

19. **Untitled**  
**Kal**, Guest

I always considered bottled water absurd, you can get water from everywhere and water is water, only women seem to notice the difference. What's next... boxed air?

Posted 2007-06-23 18:29:08

20. **Untitled**  
**Chris Baskind**, Guest

Kai: Well, there are, indeed, oxygen bars in major cities. And you can buy canned air, too:


The most preposterous thing I've seen recently was a tiny ad in the back of a Buddhist magazine somewhere. They were selling bottled Tibetan or Nepalese air.

No wonder the world thinks the West is mad. 😐

Posted 2007-06-23 18:36:22

21. **Untitled**  
**it2051229**, Guest

uhhmm lol.. it's plastic.. since when plastic became healthy? lol.. uhmm but i think they should start selling water in a REAL BOTTLE.. GLASS MADE.. lol

Posted 2007-06-24 02:57:48

22. **Untitled**  
**Jari Sutinen**, Guest

Water is also sold in glass bottles. Naturally it costs more that way. But hey, when style has cost too much :-)

http://lighterfootstep.com/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=253&pop=1&page=0&Itemid=60 (9 of 21)
23. **Untitled**  
**Stalag17, Guest**

Wow. What a stupid concept. I drink bottled water for one reason: I like it. It's convenient, taste good and better for you than Coke, Pepsi, etc. The argument for filling landfills is absurd too. Containers for soft drinks probably outnumber water bottles 1000 to 1 or more. They almost always contain caffeine, which is an addictive drug put in for one reason: to keep people buying their products. Found this on truthpublishing.com:

Kicking the soft drink habit is a critical step for achieving lasting health and weight loss. Avoiding soft drinks can literally transform your health and cause you to lose weight, reverse symptoms of diabetes, enhance bone density, support healthy brain function and even protect your body's nervous system. Wow.

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24. **NOT stupid!!!**  
**TammyL, Guest**

I don't think it's stupid at all. Lighter Footsteps has always talked about the downside of soda. And you're making a lot of plastic trash, Stalag. You and million of other wasteful bottled water drinkers every day.

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25. **Recycle your bottles**  
**Fitness Freak, Guest**

This is very sound advice. There is little reason really to buy water. I have bought water in the past when out travelling, with no access to tap water. But i always keep the bottles to use again. I have a bottle in gym baq, one in the car, and a couple in the cupboard.

Recyclce your old bottles, fill them with tap water. Stop wasting your money on water!

Also, why can't companies give refunds for returned bottles? There is no reason why a plastic bottle cannot be used again. Only laziness on the part of the consumer and manfucturer means that they are not re-used.
26. **Consider this**  
**mocona**, Guest

I guess that in North America and in Europe water is clean enough without drinking from bottled water. Good for you.

Now I want you all to consider this.. would you drink from tap water in Brazil, South Korea, Malaysia or in Indonesia, my home Country? Think about it....

**Posted 2007-06-28 09:45:25**

27. **tierd**  
**Guest**, Guest

I think the bottled water industry is all a bunch of CRAP...Just a way to make lots of money off of us germ conscious society..

**Posted 2007-06-28 13:52:33**

28. **Thanks for the great article**  
**crankyfilipino**, Guest

This was a great article. Knowledge is power and it should be spread around. Too often does the corporate superpowers of the world keep the average person in the dark and lied to. To shine the light of truth upon people is a great just cause.

**Posted 2007-06-28 20:30:00**

29. **Bottled and Distilled for Me, Baby!**  
**Kurt M**, Guest

I do not drink tap water because of fluoridation. I've read a few things questioning the safety of ingesting fluoride, so I choose to drink bottled, distilled water instead.

Yes, I know, fluoride is important as an anti-cavity agent, but you don't have to ingest it for it to be effective. It merely has to contact your teeth, atleast based on what I've read.

By the way, I recycle all of my plastic water jugs.

**Posted 2007-07-03 00:16:57**

30. **Blogengeezer**
**Guest, Guest**

Now that is an excellent report. Finally a report on the ridiculous assumption prevalent in the 'Elitist' society of today, in the USA in particular. Also add the 'Outgassing' of plastic ethers in the bottles, it was not mentioned. Also the 'savior' to our healthy city water supply in the USA, 'Chlorine' is produced by those big bad evil Refineries. I also love the correlation to 'Gasolene' and have a link about it on my 'daflikkers over at blogspot'. Great report, thank you, common sense is not totally dead.


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**untitled**

**Guest, Guest**

I could not agree more. It's pretty obvious that getting your water from a piped supply is an environmentally far superior to generating waste and environmental degradation through use of haulage and (usually) plastic bottles. Getting your water this way if you live somewhere with a piped supply is the moral equivalent of driving a SUV.

The increasing use of bottled water by those who can afford it undermines attempts to improve, maintain and develop decent municipal public supplies and normalises the rapacious activities of Western companies who are making a killing in more ways than one by setting up privatised water companies in third world countries.

Posted 2007-07-15 00:50:37

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**It's all true!**

**Jillian N, Guest**

I heard on CBC radio (in Toronto), last summer, that the City of Toronto tests their water systems every 10 minutes whereas there are no regulations on bottled water; the water that goes into bottles only has to be tested every 4 years!!!! Now take a sip of that bottled water and see how much you like it...!

Posted 2007-07-18 15:06:34

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**daddy**

**daddyb, Guest**

You should see what Wal-Mart doesn't want you to know about their water. http://www.make-this-work.com/blog/

34. **Rocket Fuel**  
keaven, Guest

I completely understand what you're saying here, and I don't disagree... in theory. However, I happen to live in the District of Columbia, where nearly every other year they're telling us to boil our water due to bacteria outbreaks, or not to drink it at all because of... get this... rocket fuel being detected in the water supply. When I lived in Maryland I never drank bottled water, but as long as I live in DC I will continue to drink bottled water.

Posted 2007-07-21 10:21:48

35. **i have questions**  
anne, Guest

Thanks for the information. if that gets out to everyone coke and dasani will be hurting 😊


36. **Bottled water**  
Chris E, Guest

I was wondering what the situation is as far as recyling and deposits in other countries? Here in Canada anywhere I've lived when you buy any sort of plastic bottled, glass bottled, or metal canned beverage, you pay a small deposit along with the price (5 cents usually, maybe 20 cents for a 'quart' sized bottle), and there is a whole business in recycling depots where you return the cans and bottles to get your money back. This solves the trash problem pretty good as anything that gets thrown on the ground gets scooped up by some homeless person pushing a shopping car within minutes.

Posted 2007-07-26 03:57:03

37. **Otskko**  
Jari Sutinen, Registered

On the other hand... Considering the flood situation in Great Britain right now, bottled water can be quite handy.

Posted 2007-07-26 06:00:54

38. **There's a Time and a place**  
Chris Baskind, Super Administrator
Jari (and others); There's a time and a place to use bottled water. Hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters -- hooray for bottled water. The same could be said if your local water is genuinely unsafe.

But these uses, unfortunately, represent a small percentage of the bottled water consumed annually. Or the plastic trash which ends up in our landfills.

39. Agreed
Sara, Guest
(Found via Thoof), I had to say, I think you are right on target with this post. So much waste is caused by bottled water, and most of us have perfectly good taps at home. And if people are so untrusting of tap, why not buy a filtration system that doesn't cause tons of waste in plastic? Amazing what people will believe is "good" for them.😊

40. Otsikko
Jari Sutinen, Registered
Yep, there are people who can't leave without the bottle of Fiji Water (www.fijiwater.com). You can even order a home delivery. The wisdom of humankind...

41. Three Cheers for bottled water
Guest, Guest
While I try to be responsible about recycling and in other ways, and don't use bottled water as my sole water source, I am not giving up bottled water any more than I would give up wine because it comes in a bottle and requires transport.

Various bottled waters, especially mineral ones, have their own taste that accompany different meals.

So now "they" want to tell us what to eat AND drink? It's getting to be too much.

42. It's up to you, actually
Chris Baskind, Super Administrator

> So now "they" want to tell us what to eat AND drink? It's getting to be too much.

Nobody is telling you anything, other than you're being ripped off.

As for wine, at least it has some value. You've got to grow the grapes, it actually has to be produced, and each bottle is a little bit of winemaking art. The last I heard, you couldn't draw free (or nearly free) wine from a kitchen tap.

Posted 2007-07-27 23:45:33

43. You haven't tasted water around here
Guest, Guest

I don't even let my dogs drink the crap that comes out of my facet. Give me a break, some of us HAVE to drink bottled water. If you have decent tap water, be grateful, not everyone does.

Posted 2007-07-28 17:17:47

44. blah
Guest, Guest

I think sometimes when you're on the go buy a water bottle in case you forgot but it's better to refill a plastic bottle from the store. 😊

Posted 2007-07-29 19:34:20

45. Rachel
Guest, Guest

I also do not drink tap water due to the fluoridation. I can't believe I'm being forced to buy water because of what I DON'T want to drink.

Fortunately, I have another solution. I can buy water that has been filtered by reverse osmosis that not only filters out fluoride but also chlorine, two things I definitely do not need to be ingesting. I was a pretty regular bottled water drinker but now I'm happy to go buy a stainless steel thermos and fill up at my home dispenser. The best thing? After initial costs of buying the dispenser and bottles, it costs anywhere from 39-49 cents per gallon. Not a lot of money to pay to keep those chemicals out of my body. Check out local natural food stores for these water dispensers.
46. **Bottled Waters**

**Jim**, Guest

Don't like the way your local tap water tastes? Then just buy bottled waters that are filtered properly and is very good for health also. For more information about different water bottles just log on to...

<a href="http://hubpages.com/hub/water_bottles">Bottled Water</a>

47. **Choice**

**Guest**, Guest

Bottled beverages are a much better choice than canned collectivism.

48. **Amusing**

**Chris Baskind**, Super Administrator

_Bottled beverages are a much better choice than canned collectivism._

I find it interesting that the application of free market ideals -- explaining that the cost of a product outweighs its supposed benefits -- to you somehow suggests "collectivism."

49. **Re: Rocket Fuel**

**Guest - Cynthia Gallimore**, Guest

Multi-Pure’s MP750 Plus RO has been certified by NSF International, under Standard 58, to reduce Perchlorate aka Rocket Fuel. For more information, please go to http://www.multipureusa.com/gallimore

50. **Re: Bottled Water vs Gas**
Guest Cynthia Gallimore, Guest

Having a good water filtration system is equivalent to owning your own gas station. I have had my water filtration system since 1994 and I get 750 gallons of great tasting healthier water for only $59.95 a year. That works out to only 8 cents per gallon.

Bottled water costs anywheres from $4.00 a case (which is only about 3 gallons of water) 24 bottles x 16oz / 128 oz = 3 gallons. Then when you go to a ball game or restaurant or bar, they charge anywheres from $1.00 up to about $3.00 a bottle. What a rip off.

I heard about one bar that sells a bottle of water for $55.00 because it is served in a bottle with diamonds on it. It is called "BLING".

Posted 2007-08-29 16:25:23

51. just one word: GLASS

Esti, Guest

I'm now using wide-mouthed mason jars, canning jars, for drinking water. I am fighting breast cancer, and I have decided to avoid plastics. I also make tea by the quart in the jars (one premium tea bag makes a quart) and refrigerate it for cold tea. It's far superior to ANY bottled teas. I'm not drinking tea with citric acid bottled in plastic... it's fresh and delicious, and the jar is brilliantly washable. No plastic taste. No trash.

And a refrigerator full of canning jars smells MUCH better than a refrigerator full of plastic wrap covered bowls. Salsas, soups, rice dishes and more can all be kept refrigerated in glass jars. You don't have to can to use canning jars. And in the pantry, mason jars keep moths out of grains, flours, and pastas.

And yes, yes, glass is breakable. So don't drop it. Or keep it protected. I'm working on a sock sort of thing, something elegant and functional.

Now I wish this trend would hurry up and do what it's going to do, so I could get my canning jars in that dreamy aquamarine. I can see it. They'll come in lime, grape, aquamarine, and pink. Soon.

Posted 2007-09-05 13:17:23

52. Take your own water with you

Cindy, Guest

Another great story. My suggestion -- bring your own water with you. Fill a reusable water bottle at home and use it!
53. **damned bottled water bottles**  
**Guest, Guest**

damn bottled water bottles are killing the poor animals that live in the water because they are eating it. recycle the damn bottles and help keep the oceans clean!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

54. **An eye opener for many.**  
**Guest, Guest**

I've always been against bottled water, because one I drink a lot of water so it would turn out expensive and then later I realized what a garbage generator it was. I absurd when people buy bottled water for daily consumption, its still better if people buy large cans of water and getting crates of small bottles is ridiculous! I'm sure it's yet to dawn on many people that they're harming their environment by depending on bottled water. Hope this article will motivate to shed their love for the bottles!

55. **good points, but...**  
**Guest, Guest**

Good points, though a lot of people I know are already aware of these facts.

I would drink more tap water if I didn't live in Dundee, where the water, though healthy, tastes unbelievably foul. I COULD boil it and freeze it and whatever, but it's much easier to just buy a 2L bottle for 40p...

56. **Distiller**  
**Nick, Guest**

did anybody look into MAKING YOUR WATER AT HOME!!!!!!! anybody has home water distillation system... the purest water you can drink and it will save you big bucks!! Its amasing i love it. No more bottled water for me...only pur!
57. **There are good things about bottled water!**

*BottledWaterIsGood, Guest*

I agree that it is stupid to buy bottled water to replace tap water; however, sometimes you're really damn thirsty and all you want is something from a vending machine. Before bottled water, all one could get is a Coke. Now buying a nice, healthy water is an option.

Also, what the hell is with the "Water going Corporate"? Would you rather have a commodities market make decisions on water distribution or some government body? I would prefer market forces.

I'm sorry, but this article is somewhat pointless... except for those who think bottled water tastes better than tap water.

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**Posted 2007-10-04 15:59:49**

58. **I think we all knew this but it**

*Guest, Guest*

Good information, however, I see that you are not promoting a particular system, that's good. If you did, which one would it be??? Just curious! I've recently heard the higher the ph of the h20 the better for our interiors. What's the truth??? and what affordable system is there????

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**Posted 2007-10-04 17:58:47**

59. **Big hoax**

*Guest, Guest*

I've always thought of bottled water as nothing more than a big hoax. These companies scaring people into believing the water they've been drinking all their life is going to end up killing them. What a scandal! 😡

I have to admit, I have bought bottled water a couple times. Mainly when I was on a road trip and didn't want to buy a soda and didn't have anything to keep a sufficient quantity of water in.

And what's with people thinking they've always got to have drink with them anyway? Haven't they ever heard of taking a good, healthy drink of water then letting their body use it as needed? I don't think anyone needs a constant supply of water at their finger tips.

Thanks for the article. It gave me a chance to sound off! 😏
60. **Excellent List!**  
**LifeLessPlastic**, Guest

Thanks for this excellent list of reasons! I actually mentioned this list today in my blog because I was writing about Chicago's proposed tax on bottled water, which would add 10 cents per bottle to the cost. I created a list of reasons why I support a tax on bottled water, but they were pretty cheesy so when I read your post I decided that I really needed to link to it. Anyways, thanks again for all of the info, and I like your blog!

61. **A Reaction to BottledWaterIsGood**  
**Guest**, Guest

I wanted to answer BottledWaterIsGood's question about who I'd prefer controlling my water. I have to say that I definitely prefer that the government controls my water supply. I know it might not feel like it sometimes, but our government is ultimately responsible for serving the needs of the people and acting responsibly on our behalf. On the other hand, corporations are responsible to no one except their shareholders, meaning they make all of their decisions with only one thing in mind: will this increase our profits. So personally, I would definitely prefer that the government makes decisions about my water because at least they are supposed to make their decisions based on something other than just earning money.

62. **what should I do?**  
**Guest**, Guest

I'm allergic to the chlorine in my water, I have 2 filters and it still doesn't get rid all of it. I buy water by the gallon, not the liter and recycle or reuse all my bottles. I've looked into other filtering systems but they cost to much for us. Is there a simple inexpensive way to remove the chlorine from my water?

63. **Filtering chlorine**  
**Chris Baskind**, Super Administrator

> Is there a simple inexpensive way to remove the chlorine from my water?
It sounds as if you are unusually sensitive to chlorine. Carbon filters *do* remove chlorine from water, but their effectiveness varies from filter to filter.

You'll have to try a few filters. Solid block carbon filters are the most effective, since they prohibit channeling through loose granules. I've seen various tablets which claim to eliminate chlorine in drinking water (such as those used to purify aquarium water), but can't vouch for their safety or effectiveness. Anyone ... ?