

Drink Tap!

WHY DO WE SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON A FREE RESOURCE?

- Globally we spend **\$100 billion** a year on bottled water¹
- The U.S. uses **50 billion** water bottles a year²

HOW MUCH DO WE PAY FOR WATER IN CALIFORNIA?

- Bottled water: Approximately **\$1 per gallon** *
- Tap water: **1 cent per gallon**³

Tap water is 100 times less expensive than bottled water!

* Based on the 4/3/15 price of a 2.5 gallon bottle of Arrowhead 100% mountain spring water priced at \$2.98 at walmart.com

IS BOTTLED WATER SAFER THAN TAP WATER?

- Bottled water plants test for bacteria once a week⁴
- Tap water must be tested 100 or more times a month⁴
- Bacteria grows in warm, moist environments, like unrefrigerated water bottles⁵
- Studies show that chemicals used to make plastic bottles can leach into the water over time⁶

Therefore NO, bottled water is not always safer than tap water.

DOESN'T BOTTLED WATER COME FROM CRYSTAL CLEAR LAKES?

- **25% to 45%** of bottled water sold in stores is simply bottled tap water⁷

BUT AT LEAST WE RECYCLE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES, RIGHT?

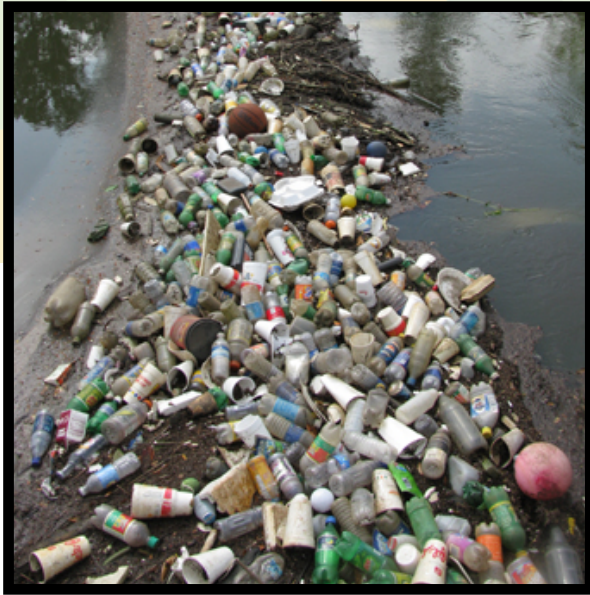
- **75%** of empty water bottles end up in landfills, lakes, streams, and oceans⁸
- Transporting and keeping bottles cold uses fossil fuels, contributing to climate change
- In one year **50 million** barrels of oil are needed to produce and transport water bottles; equivalent to oil needed for **1.5 million** cars per year⁸
- Plastic water bottles can take **thousands** of years to decompose⁹

Recycling is not enough to counter the damage caused to people and ecosystems.



Water bottles that end up in lakes become dangerous to the wildlife.

www.treehugger.com



Above: As a community, we need to work together to protect our rights to free and clean water.

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/> Left: Water bottles pollute lakes and streams we depend on for fresh water. www.sodahead.com

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Buy and use a refillable water bottle. Learn about different types of bottles at <http://bit.ly/ZPw2TX>
2. Ask your water supplier for a water quality report. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) customers can visit their website at <http://ladwp.com>
3. Consider buying an inexpensive water filter for your home
4. Refrigerate water and/or cut slices of fruit into water for a refreshing drink



This is an example of how we can encourage our families to drink more tap water. imgbuddy.com

TO LEARN MORE

The Story of Bottled Water (2010)
<http://bit.ly/LtYMc>

Ban the Bottle

<http://www.banthebottle.net>

FLOW: For the Love of Water (2008)
<http://www.hulu.com/watch/233816>

Fact sheet developed by the Water Works project of the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) at Occidental College.



www.oxy.edu/uepi

Citations

1. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/03/100310/why-tap-water-is-better>
2. <http://www.banthebottle.net/bottled-water-facts/>
3. <http://www.businessinsider.com/facts-bottled-water-industry-2011-10?op=1>
4. <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/exesum.asp>
5. http://people.chem.duke.edu/~jds/cruise_chem/water/wattap.html

6. <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp#safer>
7. http://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/phthalates_factsheet.html
8. <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp>
9. <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/bottled/bottled-water-bad-for-people-and-the-environment/>
10. http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/plastics.html