

Eco-Reps Article: The Truth about Bottled Water
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How much water do you consume on average? According to the World Wildlife Organization people are consuming more bottled water than ever, with an increasing rate of 12% each year. On average bottled water cost 1000 times more than tap water. But how much safer or healthier is bottled water than tap water? Many people that drink bottled water are concerned with the long term affects that public drinking water has been rumored to have. In the past public water has been linked to cancer and bacterial dieses. But according to Professor David Dzombak, when it comes to the Pittsburgh water system, such ideas and notions should stay in the past. "The Pittsburgh Water and Sewage Authority provide Carnegie Mellon with water. It is highly monitored and safe to drink," said Dzombak, "purchasing higher quality water means that it is not put through an iron pipe system, it may be highly treated water, and contain salt." Popular brands such as Dansani and Aquafina are treated through reverse osmosis; a process that removes membrane. The popular brand Arrowhead Spring Water's water source is disinfected ground water. The terms may sound misleading because most of the world's freshest water comes from the ground.

For those of you that are still not believers of the safety of tap water, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewage Authority publish annual reports that list what chemicals are can be found in the water. On the one hand bottled water is convenient, craftily marketed, and may ease health concerns. But before you take another sip from your bottled French Alps or Canada mountain spring water think about the environmental toll that the bottled water craze has created. Although the process used to make water bottles uses less energy to recycle (compared to aluminum or glass), the process still involves using 1.5 million tons of plastic. Across the globe this is attributing to a large amount of pollution.

Many people do not recycle their bottles after they have consumed the water (let alone reuse the bottle). Plastic bottles contribute to landfill waste world wide because they take hundreds of years to breakdown. In the end, save yourself some money, give the earth a break, and drink more tap water.