

## Your 'pure' bottled water has contaminants, too

*Study finds 38 chemicals in 10 brands, including those common in tap water*



Kirsty Wigglesworth / AP file

Many people seeking purity opt for bottled water rather than the kind from the tap. But new research shows contaminants lurk there, too.

### **The Associated Press**

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Tests on leading brands of bottled water turned up a variety of contaminants, including cancer-linked chemicals three times higher than California's health standard, according to a study released Wednesday by an environmental advocacy group.

**The findings challenge the popular impression — and marketing pitch — that bottled water is purer than tap water, the researchers say.**

However, all the brands met federal health standards for drinking water. And most of the detected contaminants are common in tap water, too.

**Lab tests detected 38 chemicals in 10 brands, with an average of eight contaminants found in each kind of bottled water. Tests showed coliform bacteria, caffeine, the pain reliever acetaminophen, fertilizer, solvents, plastic-making chemicals and the radioactive element strontium.**

The two-year study was done by the Washington-based Environmental Working Group, an organization founded by scientists that advocates stricter regulation. It bought bottled water in California, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.

### **Sam's Choice, Acadia post high levels**

Researchers tested one batch for each of 10 brands. Eight of those did not have troubling levels of contaminants. But two brands did, so more tests were done and those revealed chlorine byproducts above California's standard. The researchers identified those two brands as Sam's Choice sold by Wal-Mart and Acadia of Giant Food supermarkets.

The other eight, which researchers didn't identify, carried legal levels of many contaminants. Some of those chemicals, like arsenic and the solvent toluene, have been tied to health risks. **Some of the contaminants apparently came from pollutants often found in tap water, and others probably leached from plastic bottles, the researchers said.**

In the Wal-Mart and Giant Food bottled water, **the highest concentration of chlorine byproducts, known as trihalomethanes (THM's)**, was over 35 parts per billion. California requires 10 parts per billion

## **...'pure' bottled water has contaminants...(cont'd)**

or less, and the industry's International Bottled Water Association makes 10 its voluntary guideline. The federal limit is 80.

Water researcher Dr. David Carpenter, director of the Institute for Health and the Environment of the University at Albany, who had no role in the study, **singled out trihalomethanes as the biggest concern because of strong research links to cancer.**

"These are levels that should not be in bottled water," he said.

Giant Food officials declined to comment. Instead, company officials released a brief statement asserting that Acadia meets all regulatory standards.

Acadia is sold in the mid-Atlantic states, so it isn't held to California's standard. In most places, bottled water must meet roughly the same federal standards as tap water.

The researchers also said the Wal-Mart brand exceeded California's limit by five times for a second chlorine byproduct, bromodichloromethane.

The Environmental Working Group said it notified California's attorney general of its intent to sue Wal-Mart. The group wants the company to label its bottles in California with a warning of cancer-causing chemicals. Wal-Mart did not respond to a request for comment.

Joe Doss, president of the International Bottled Water Association, said he would not defend any company that is exceeding the standard in California. "If they have exceeded it, they should meet it," he said.

### **Chlorine linked to birth defects**

The chlorine byproducts, which studies have also linked to birth defects, presumably come from chlorine used as a disinfectant, which ends up in public water systems. Tap water is often repackaged and sold as bottled water, and the researchers say that was true of these two brands.

"In some cases, it appears bottled water is no less polluted than tap water and, at 1,900 times the cost, consumers should expect better," said Jane Houlihan, an environmental engineer who co-authored the study.

**The researchers recommend that people who are worried use a carbon filter for their tap water.**

**- End of Story -**

Here is an excerpt from our website on the [Water Filters](#) page at [AquaHealthSystems.com](#):

### **Improve *more* than your quality of water — improve your quality of life.**

Water really is a critical component of human life. And tap water that's healthy and great-tasting is increasingly rare these days. When it's contaminated it can affect nearly everything you cook, eat, and drink. Therefore, it can affect the quality of your life. Water quality is something you simply can't afford to compromise.

A healthy lifestyle comprises exercise, sleep, nutritious food, and plenty of water. But water that tastes bad or is bad for you can undermine your intentions of well-being.

Everpure turns ordinary tap water into sparkling, great-tasting, healthy water for drinking, cooking, making ice cubes, and coffee making. Since 1933, Everpure has been unparalleled in the commercial arena. An Everpure drinking water system offers reliable, great tasting water for the discriminating homeowner.

We feature a broad selection of Everpure Drinking Water Systems. These systems meet your specific needs for water filtration in the kitchen, bathroom, or wet bar, and anywhere throughout your home that you desire the best water quality possible.

...and this is taken from our website on the [Drinking Water Systems](#) page

### Why Bother With Bottled?™

Americans spent more money last year on bottled water than on ipods or movie tickets: **\$15 Billion.**

In 1976, the average American drank 1.6 gallons of bottled water a year, according to Beverage Marketing Corp. **Last year, we each drank 28.3 gallons of bottled water** - 18 half-liter bottles a month. We drink more bottled water than milk, or coffee, or beer. Only carbonated soft drinks are more popular than bottled water, at 52.9 gallons annually. [More...](#)



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### Everpure Drinking Water Systems Are...

- **Cost Effective**
  - Just pennies per gallon
- **Convenient**
  - Easier to use for drinking and cooking
- **Certified**
  - All Everpure systems are NSF certified with the highest ratings
- **Conservational**
  - Reduction of environmental impact of discarded plastic bottles
- **Chic**
  - No more unsightly water coolers in a designer kitchen



### You Get Virtually An Unlimited Supply of Water At Your Fingertips

- Use for drinking **and** cooking
- No more bottled water deliveries
- No more running out of water
- No more waiting for the trickle-down filters to work
- No more lugging heavy bottles from the grocery store

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