



Bottled Water: A Better Alternative to Filtration Systems

Pure spring water bottled at the source is a refreshing change from purified water from sometimes ambiguous sources. Recent cost benefit analyses highlighting the theoretical savings of filtered water over bottled spring water have overlooked a variety of important points which transcend these penny economics.

Regulation & Testing: Bottled water is subject to federal, state and industry standards. Since 1938, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has strictly regulated bottled drinking water as a food product and is one of only five food products that have standards above those required of all foods. The FDA specifically states that bottled water must be processed, bottled, held, and transported under strict sanitary conditions. These quality control processes ensure the elimination of bacteria or unwanted chemicals. Fox Ledge Spring Water exceeds the state's requirements and performs hourly testing in its state of the art laboratory following NY, NJ and PA standards to ensure a quality product. Data from bacteriological analysis and test results for total dissolved solids, pH, turbidity, color and conductivity must be made available for FDA audit.



What about Bisphenol-A (BPA)?: The washing and sanitization process for the 3 & 5 gallon containers is carefully designed to use warm water followed by a cold water rinse, detergent, and hyper-ozonated water during the 8-step cleaning process. BPA is a heat-activated chemical released through stress cracks (usually formed as a result of high heat dishwasher-style cleaning) in aged polycarbonate plastic. We inspect all bottles prior to cleaning. Any bottles showing signs of stress are sent to the recycler.

FDA Standard of Identity: Fox Ledge Spring Water is naturally pure spring water.

Source Protection: Under the FDA's General Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), only approved sources of water can be used to supply a bottling plant. Groundwater Resource Management is a plan for protecting and managing source water through monitoring and testing, risk assessment, appropriate controls and procedures, and diligence. Possessing the foresight to look beyond the protection of the source water from contaminants to ensuring the sustainability of the aquifer to meet current and future needs are equally important.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle: The bottled water industry is very conscious of the environment and heavily promotes plastic recycling. The 3 & 5 gallon options are the best option for the environment since they can be sanitized and reused many times before they need to be recycled. One of the more than 30 uses for the recycled plastic is car bumpers.



Tap Water Difference: The quality of tap water is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a utility, not a food product. The source of most tap water is rivers and lakes with an indeterminate length of aged piping through which to travel before reaching the tap. All that can be done to disinfect the system is add more carcinogenic chlorine. When the inevitable water main break occurs, the system is contaminated and a boil advisory is issued.



Filtration Impact: The water that comes out of your tap is not simple H₂O. There are a variety of dissolved minerals, salts, metals, chemicals, micro-organisms and other impurities to remove from the water before it is pure. A filtration system may not eliminate them all. Beyond the alleged cost savings over bottled water usage claimed by filtration proponents, the topic of environmental impact remains conspicuously absent.

Green Filters?: The claims of plastic bottles cluttering landfills from the bottled water industry seem to be a smokescreen to hide the presence of unrecyclable filters from all types of water filtration systems. Recycling programs and industry initiatives promote the environmentally-friendly, moral and oftentimes monetary incentives of plastic recycling. The water filtration industry has not followed suit.

Wasted Water?: Filtration systems also creates a significant amount of wastewater since some systems send to waste 3 gallons of water for every clean gallon they produce. Those wasted 3 gallons of water are lost and sent to the local treatment plant where more energy is used to process the waste. This increase in water usage and associated fees also impact the wallets of filtration system users.

Covert Contamination?: Water filtration systems rely on the filter to remove contaminants from the tap water. What happens when the filter itself is a possible source of contamination? Filter misuse, use of synthetic filters, and filters unused for two weeks or longer can all result in the release of large amounts of contaminants back into the water.

Additional Cost?: Water filtration systems require regular maintenance, additional filters and in certain situations, emergency maintenance, all of which drive up the cost of the entire system.

For more information about bottled water service contact your Fox Ledge Spring Water representative.