

The Facts: Bottled Water vs. Tap Water

The bottled water industry in the U.S. has become a multi-billion dollar business, with Americans spending \$15 billion on bottled water in 2007. Much research has been conducted regarding the safety, quality and necessity for bottled water. Criticisms surrounding the industry are prevalent and many directly support the use of Oakdale's tap water rather than bottled water.

Bottled Water is Poorly Regulated

- Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- The FDA only tests bottled water facilities once per year.
- FDA regulations focus on production conditions of plants and are more lenient on water content requirements.
- 60%-70% is bottled in the same state where it is distributed, making it not regulated by the FDA.
- The International Bottled Water Association has created a "Model Code" for bottlers to use to "self-regulate" their practices. This code contains a fraction of the regulations enforced by the EPA on tap water.
- The country's largest bottle water producers use municipal water sources. This water comes from wells, lakes and rivers, exposing it to hazardous run-off containing pharmaceutical products.
- Oakdale's water originates from extremely deep aquifers.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Oakdale water.
- All 8 wells in Oakdale are tested on a monthly basis.
- Oakdale's carbon filtration system is tested twice a month.

Affordability of Oakdale Water

- A 20-ounce bottle of water costs \$1.45.
- 1,000 gallons of Oakdale water costs \$1.45.
- Water fees in the Twin Cities average \$24.55 per household, which includes all water usage.
- Many families spend nearly \$75 a month on bottled water, three-times more than municipal water charges.

Bottled Water's Environmental Consequences

- Production, transportation, and disposal processes associated with bottled water negatively affect the environment.
- Plastic used is polyethylene terephthalate (PET) that is produced with oil-based materials. This depletes oil levels worldwide and contributes to the rising cost of fuel.
- The World Wildlife Fund estimates that 1.5 million tons of plastic is used annually by the bottled water industry.
- Tap water causes no negative environmental effect.
- The Container Recycling Institute estimates that 30 million bottles a day end up in the trash.

Oakdale Water has Crucial Supplements

- Fluoride is added to Oakdale's water, a practice highly recommended by the American Dental Association (ADA) to aid in the protection and development of teeth.
- Bottled water has no fluoride added; therefore ADA recommends fluoride supplements for people who rely solely on bottled water.
- Chlorine is added to water in Oakdale to protect it from harmful bacteria.
- Bottled water has no chlorine, making it susceptible to bacteria.
- Studies have shown that bacteria begin to form in water held in plastic bottles longer than 12 days due to a lack of chlorine and a breakdown of the plastic.