

## Part 1: Are You a Sucker for Bottled Water?

The water in at least one-quarter of all bottles of water this country buys every year comes out of the same public sources that send water to every tap from public drinking fountains to your bathroom sink.

- The biggest-selling bottled water company in the country, Aquafina, bottled by Pepsi, - the ones with those pretty, swirly-topped bottles with the pure blue mountain logo - comes from the same sources as the humble -- and cheap -- tap water in Fresno and Wichita and Detroit and other cities that are nowhere close to pure blue mountains.
- Dasani water, bottled by Coca-Cola, uses tap-water pedigree from pristine locales such as Queens, N.Y., but it's still this nation's second-best-selling water.
- Crystal Geyser water doesn't come out of Yosemite Valley. It comes from L.A.'s Highland Park, where there's a street named Yosemite.
- Everest Water is not from Mount Everest. It's from Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Glacier Clear Water is not from a glacier in Alaska. Its source is tap water from Greeneville, Tenn.
- At least the popular French water, Evian, does come from France

**Some of the public water's biggest water customers are. . . bottled water companies.**

Of course, the bottlers purify already drinkable water, but slap a filter on your spigot and yours will be purified too.

Tap water often comes from the same source as the bottled stuff. It's cheaper than the bottled stuff. It may be *safer* than the bottled stuff – most public water is tested daily for a variety of bacteria and contaminants; the FDA requires bottlers to test just once a week.

**Which is why, in the words of the Economist magazine, the success of bottled water is "one of capitalism's greatest mysteries."**

**Are you one who buys water in bottles?** Think of it this way... Would you pay \$5 for a gallon of gas in a pretty container if you could get a plain-wrap gallon for half a penny? When it comes to water, that's pretty much what they do. Save money, bottle your tap water; that's where much of bottled water comes from anyway.

### **Paw Paw's water is safe and delivered to your home!**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requires the Village to publish an annual report to let you know our water is tested, what it is tested for, and the findings of those tests. To view this report go online at <http://www.pawpaw.net/ccr.html>. Copies of the report are also available at Village Hall (111 East Michigan Avenue).

