

Bottled Water

Bottled water remains one of the most commonly purchased beverages worldwide, thanks largely to its convenience and the perception that it is a safer alternative to tap water. In many places where water quality is uncertain or tap water has an unpleasant taste, people turn to bottled water for hydration.

Manufacturers often promote bottled water as coming from pristine natural springs or sources, emphasizing purity and health benefits. However, recent reports suggest that the reality might be more complicated. In some cases, bottled water is sourced from the same municipal supplies as tap water, but it undergoes additional filtration or treatment processes before bottling. This has led some consumers to question whether bottled water offers any real advantage over their home tap.

Environmental concerns also continue to grow. The production and disposal of plastic bottles create a significant environmental footprint. Many plastic bottles end up in landfills or oceans, harming wildlife and contributing to pollution. Although recycling programs exist, a large percentage of bottles are never recycled properly. This has prompted calls for better waste management and alternatives to single-use plastics.

On the other hand, bottled water has undeniable benefits. It is portable, convenient, and widely available in places where clean tap water might not be accessible. For travelers, athletes, and people on the go, bottled water offers a reliable hydration option. Regulators also monitor bottled water quality, requiring companies to meet safety standards that can sometimes be more stringent than those for municipal water supplies.

As awareness grows about both the benefits and drawbacks of bottled water, consumers face a choice: prioritize convenience and safety, or focus on reducing environmental impact by using reusable bottles and filtered tap water. The industry continues to evolve, with innovations such as biodegradable bottles and water stations that refill reusable containers gaining popularity.

Write the correct letter in the box.

1. The bottled water _____ come from natural springs, but it might also be sourced from municipal supplies.
 - a) must have
 - b) could have

- c) couldn't have
- d) might have

2. If the plastic bottles were not recycled properly, they _____ caused environmental pollution.
- a) must have
 - b) couldn't have
 - c) might have
 - d) could have
3. The company _____ followed strict safety regulations when treating the bottled water.
- a) must have
 - b) couldn't have
 - c) might have
 - d) could have
4. The bottled water _____ offered better quality than tap water if it underwent additional filtration.
- a) couldn't have
 - b) must have
 - c) could have
 - d) might have
5. If consumers used reusable bottles instead of single-use plastics, the environmental impact _____ reduced.
- a) must have
 - b) might have
 - c) couldn't have
 - d) could have

6. The bottled water industry _____ improved by introducing biodegradable bottles and refill stations.

- a) must have
- b) couldn't have
- c) might have
- d) could have

7. If the tap water quality was poor, consumers _____ chosen bottled water for safety reasons.

- a) couldn't have
- b) must have

- c) might have
- d) could have

8. If a bottle was sealed correctly, harmful bacteria _____ entered the water.

- a) must have
- b) couldn't have
- c) might have
- d) could have