

# Tap water versus bottled water

## Water fact sheet

Sydney Water	Bottled Water
<b>Where does it come from?</b>	
<p>Most of Sydney's drinking water comes from rainwater collected from natural catchment areas and is stored in lakes that are surrounded by some of the most unspoilt native bushland in the region, including World Heritage national parks.</p>	<p>Bottled water is from various sources and falls under the <i>Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code</i>. The code doesn't require manufacturers to state on the bottle what type of water it is or where the water is sourced from, apart from the country of origin<sup>2</sup>.</p>
<b>Quality</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every drop of your drinking water is filtered so it meets Australia's health and quality guidelines<sup>1</sup> which are some of the strictest in the world.</li> <li>• As well as continuously monitoring drinking water quality in real time, Sydney Water does up to 70 laboratory tests on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis, from our water filtration plants to customer's taps.</li> <li>• Our monitoring confirms Sydney's drinking water is safe and great for drinking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to NSW Health, bottled water is not necessarily any safer to drink than tap water.</li> <li>• There are typically more tests to confirm safety and quality of public drinking water than bottled water.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Impact on the environment</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All water comes from nature, but, it's how it gets to us that can have a big impact on the environment. So we take care by drawing water from local sources, so that we have a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply.</li> <li>• Sydney's drinking water is the sustainable choice – sourced locally and has no packaging.</li> <li>• By choosing Sydney's tap water rather than bottled you're protecting the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It takes 250 mL of oil and three litres of water to produce one litre of bottled water<sup>4</sup>.</li> <li>• Plastic bottles are among the 10 most common rubbish items picked up on Clean up Australia Day<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>• Australia recycles only 36% of PET plastic drink bottles, so around 373 million plastic water bottles end up as waste each year<sup>6</sup>.</li> <li>• A plastic water bottle can take anywhere from 400-1,000 years to break down<sup>7</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinking tap water is the most cost effective way to stay hydrated – especially compared to bottled water.</li> <li>• Sydney's tap water costs less than one cent per litre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bottled water can cost up to 2000 times more than tap water!</li> <li>• If you're drinking 8 glasses of water a day tap water will cost you less than \$1.50 a year compared to around \$2,600 for bottled water.</li> <li>• Australians spent more than \$600 million on bottled water last year<sup>8</sup>.</li> </ul>

**Sydney Water**

**Bottled Water**

**Reference**

<http://oursydneyourwater.com.au/>

<http://oursydneyourwater.com.au/aquavist/>

- 1 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, NHMRC, 2011
- 2 Choice, August 2016
- 3 Choice, March 2016
- 4 Clean Up Australia Bottled Water Fact Sheet, May 2015
- 5 Clean Up Australia Bottled Water Fact Sheet, May 2015
- 6 University of Wollongong
- 7 University of Queensland
- 8 Choice, August 2016