



“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania



TAP WATER vs. BOTTLED WATER

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Abstract

During the last 20 years it was registered over the world, an increased trend in the consumption of the bottled water, due to the public concerns about the tap water safety and the persistent bottled water advertising campaigns, as well. The question is if the bottled water represents a great improvement in comparison with tap water if the subject is analyzed in details. In favor of the tap water stand the characteristics of being cheap, basically safe, and easily available. But sometimes tap water can be polluted with many industrial chemicals that are not totally removed by the water purification systems, and occasionally can be contaminated with bacteria. There is also a migration process of some metals like copper or lead from the pipes or joints. Bottled water is safe from bacterial infections, taste good, is easily portable, but is usually very expensive, and may contain unacceptable levels of the plastic chemicals that leech from plastic containers.

This paper summarizes safety, costs, and benefits of tap and bottled waters, taking also into consideration the regulations and consumption pattern in Romania.

Key words: benefits to consumers, monitoring, safety

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