

# 14 Brands Of Bottled Spring Water Recalled Over E. Coli Concern



If you're a bottled water drinker, you just might want to put that bottle down.

Niagara Bottling has recalled 14 brands of bottled spring water produced at two Pennsylvania manufacturing plants after the operator of one of its contracted springs failed to reveal evidence of E. coli bacteria at the spring source.

## Niagara Recall Highlights Safety Problems With Bottled Water

*Food & Water Watch, Washington, DC 20036 / CBS News June 2015*

Statement of Food & Water Watch Executive Director Wenonah Hauter

Washington, D.C. - This week's recall of 14 brands of bottled water from Niagara Bottling is yet another reminder that bottled water is no safer than water from the tap.

For years, the bottled water industry has touted the so-called purity and superiority of its products, even drumming up fear towards tap water. While problems relating to our nation's aging infrastructure can sometimes compromise the quality of tap water, it's important to remember that the United States has some of the safest, cleanest water in the world. That's because tap water is more strictly regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency than bottled water is by the Food & Drug Administration.

Perpetually under-funded and short-staffed, FDA has a poor record of protecting consumer health and safety. FDA sends inspectors to bottling plants once every two to three years. While highly disturbing, this recall is hardly surprising. In 2009, Researchers from Environmental Working Group investigated 10 major brands of bottled water and found roughly eight contaminants per brand.

California's drought and the controversy over Nestle's bottling practices reminded us once again that bottled water companies are not responsible stewards of this essential human resource. Now this recall reminds us that many cannot even guarantee its safety.

People should never be so leery of tap water that they resort to obtaining their water from other questionable sources such as bottled water.

### **Is there plastic in your bottled water?** *CBS News March 2018*

According to research conducted at the State University of New York, more than 90 percent of some of the most popular bottled water brands contain tiny particles of plastic microfibers and microplastics. Tests on more than 250 bottles from various brands were found to be contaminated with plastic debris. One popular brand tested at 10,390 particles per liter, the highest level of plastic out of any sampled.

# Is Poland Spring Bottled Water Really From a Spring?



A lawsuit filed in Connecticut alleges that Poland Spring is “a colossal fraud” and that instead of spring water, parent company Nestle Waters North America has been selling billions of gallons of groundwater to its customers. According to the company's official "Key Facts & Figures" sales chart, Nestle Waters North America 2016 Sales were \$4.5 billion.

## So Where Does Poland Spring Water Come From?

*Washington Post / AAP / CBS News August 2017*

The lawsuit states: “Not one drop of Poland Spring Water emanates from a water source that complies with the Food and Drug Administration definition of ‘spring water... the famous Poland Spring in Poland Spring, Maine, which defendant’s labels claim is a source of Poland Spring Water, ran dry nearly 50 years ago... To feign compliance with FDA regulations, defendant has gone so far as to build or maintain phony, man-made springs at all seven of its other sites,” according to the complaint.

It goes on to state, “the labels depict pristine scenes of water flowing down a verdant hillside or a forest pond when, in fact, the vast bulk of the water is drawn from wells in low-lying populated areas near potential sources of contamination.”

They contain "ordinary groundwater" collected from wells drilled in "saturated plains or valleys where the water table is within a few feet of the earth's surface."

Nestle’s six groundwater collection sites in Maine, it goes on, “are near a present or former human waste dump, landfill, fish hatchery or toxic petroleum dump site.”

Nestle is seeking state approval to source water from another public water district well. The company hopes to pump up to 172 million gallons of water a year from the district well, which once served a now-closed paper mill.

Nestle has run into trouble in other parts of the country. Nestle Waters had previously settled a lawsuit in 2003 claiming Poland Spring's water was not sourced deep in the Maine woods. In California, the company faced protests over water collection because of that state's drought. One Michigan community in April denied a Nestle request to build a new pumping station, according to an Associated Press report.