

## Only Tap Water Delivers Public Health

*In a world where an estimated 8000 people die every day from preventable waterborne disease, water systems in North America allow us to drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety.*

- A safe water supply is critical to protecting the public health, and is the first obligation of all water suppliers. Before our modern water systems, diseases such as cholera and dysentery were part of everyday life.
- In the United States, water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet 91 regulations for water safety and quality. Those water standards are among the worlds most stringent.
- Many states also require utilities to meet additional standards.
- Community water supplies are tested every day. Tap water undergoes far more frequent testing than bottled water.

## Did you know?

Every year, water utilities provide customers with a detailed report on the quality of their drinking water. To find your utility's report, contact your local utility or visit [www.drinktap.org](http://www.drinktap.org).

## UN declares safe water to be a human right

- In 2010 the United Nations affirmed that the right to water and sanitation is a basic human right.
- Underscoring the public health value of a safe water supply, the UN also dubbed 2005-2015 the 'Water for Life Decade.'
- The UN seeks to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by the year 2015.



American Water Works  
Association