

## What's all the hype about bottled water?

•It is estimated that only 12% of the 28 billion plastic water bottles that are purchased each year in the United States are recycled.



•Over 30 million bottles end up in landfills or as litter everyday. This is equal to over 10 billion per year.

•The production of bottles for water in the United States requires 1.5 million barrels of oil per year. That is enough oil to generate electricity for 250,000 homes or fuel for 100,000 cars per year.

•Because bottled water can sit on the shelf for long periods of time, there is a concern about chemicals, such as bisphenol A, leaching from the plastic bottle into the water it contains.

•Cost! Bottled water can cost up to 4,000 times as much as tap water.

•Consider this cost comparison. Tap water is priced at \$.002/gallon whereas bottled water \$1.00-\$8.40/gallon.

•40% of bottled water comes from municipal sources. Why pay 4,000 times more?!

•Bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, which does not require as frequent monitoring as EPA does for tap water.

•Evanston's water quality is monitored continuously!!



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

## Tap Water



**Good for you.  
Good for the environment.**



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## Global Water Supply

Two-thirds of the earth is covered in water; however, only 2.5% is freshwater, mostly in inaccessible icecaps. Less than 1% of the freshwater supply is accessible in lakes, river, and underground.

More than one billion people in the world do not have access to safe sources of drinking water. Unsafe drinking water is home to life-threatening organisms such as *shigella*.



## Evanston Water Supply

Lake Michigan is the largest freshwater supply in the United States. Evanston is located on the shore of this invaluable resource.

The Evanston Water Division treats the lake water to make clean, drinkable water. The clean water is distributed to the taps of over 350,000 residents of Evanston, Skokie, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Arlington Heights and Palatine.

The tap water residents and businesses receive from the water division is strictly monitored every hour to meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) quality standards.

**To view the EPA standards visit:**

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/compliance/drinking-water/publications/regulated-contaminants.pdf>

## From Lake to Tap

The Evanston Water Division historically has been on the forefront of providing safe drinking water to the community. In 1911, the water department was one of the first water utilities to add disinfectant to its water. This prevented the outbreak of cholera and typhoid in the Evanston community. Not only is the water quality required to meet strict standards, so are the professionals who oversee the treatment and distribution of the water.

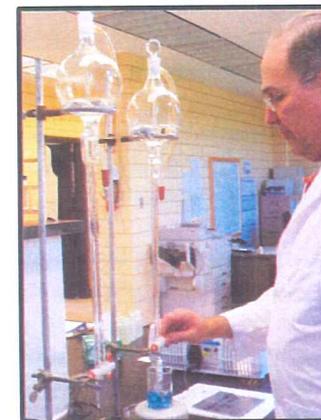
### What are the steps in the water supply process?

1. Water enters through large intake pipes and flows into the suction wells.
2. Six centrifugal pumps lift the water from suction wells to begin its journey through the treatment plant.
3. At the flash mix, treatment chemicals are added including chlorine to disinfect, fluoride for dental health, and aluminum sulfate and polymers to coagulate suspended solids and form floc. Carbon is also added to mitigate taste and odor.
4. The floc (cluster of particles), formed in the flash mix, contains algae, bacteria and other impurities. It settles to the bottom of the sediment basins in four to eight hours.
5. The tiniest particles are removed as the water flows through filters which contains layers of anthracite coal and filter sand.
6. After post chlorination, water goes to reservoirs where a blended phosphate is added for corrosion control.
7. Water is continuously sampled and analyzed for quality assurance before being pumped into the distribution system.

### Who supervises the process?

The Evanston water treatment and pumping facilities are staffed 24 hours/day, seven days a week. Our operators are certified by the Illinois EPA and have passed extensive exams to prove their qualifications.

The Water Utility's staff consists of 42 employees, including a full-time chemist and microbiologist operating a certified laboratory. The qualifications of our laboratory are audited by both the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois EPA.



The Evanston Water and Sewer Division staff is proud to serve our community. For more information please contact us at (847) 866-2942 or visit us at [www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org)