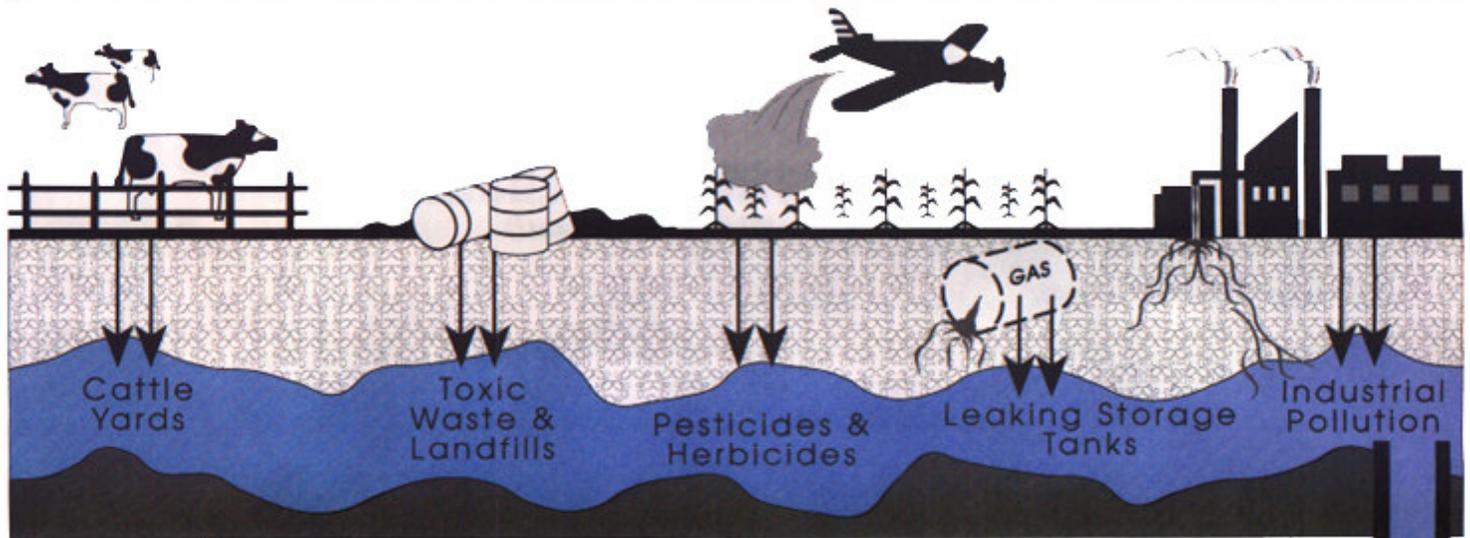


What Is In YOUR Drinking Water?



"We have something like 300,000 toxic waste dumps across the country. We've got about 800,000 underground storage tanks, 30% of which are probably structurally impaired, potentially capable of leaking. We've got no regulations on pesticide run-off. We've got a national water pipe system full of lead, which is extremely dangerous. We've got sewage treatment plants that don't work very well, effectively discharging raw sewage into our lakes, streams, and rivers. We have landfills that we dump solid waste garbage and hazardous waste into. So you can see that there is a potential for contaminating our drinking water that has just grown up as a result of sloppy ways of doing things."

Congressman James Florio

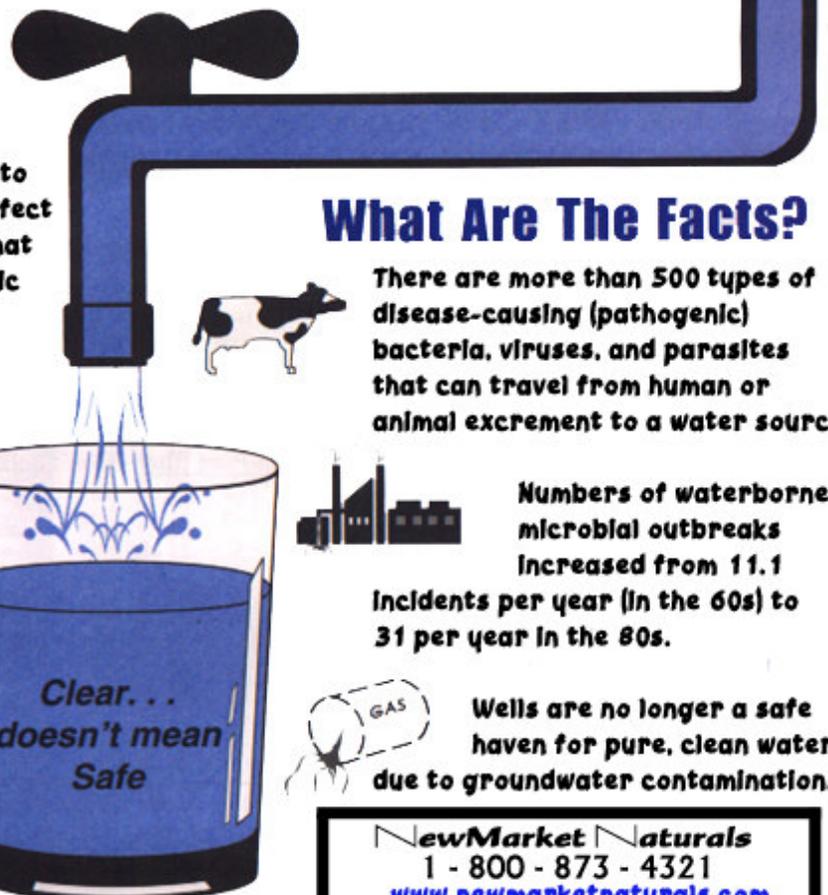
Co-Sponsor, "1986 Safe Drinking Water Act"

Why You Shouldn't Drink Chlorinated Water

Chlorine added to water acts as a disinfectant to kill disease causing microorganisms that can infect humans. Fifteen years ago it was discovered that chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic material and synthetic organics to produce by-products called Trihalomethanes (THM s). These THM s have been found to be highly mutagenic and carcinogenic (cancer-causing).

The National Cancer Institute recently published a study showing that trace amounts of THM s increase our risk for bladder cancer which inflicts over 40,000 people a year. They found that long-term exposure, 40 - 60 years, to chlorinated drinking water can increase your risk for bladder cancer by 40 - 80%.

This is pretty serious considering that according to the EPA about 75% of the U.S. population drinks chlorinated water.



What Are The Facts?

There are more than 500 types of disease-causing (pathogenic) bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can travel from human or animal excrement to a water source

Numbers of waterborne microbial outbreaks increased from 11.1 incidents per year (in the 60s) to 31 per year in the 80s.

Wells are no longer a safe haven for pure, clean water due to groundwater contamination.

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What Contaminants Can Be Found in Drinking Water?

<p>THM's and Chlorine: <i>Many municipal water systems use chlorine to eliminate bacteria but recent studies show that chlorine can react with organic material in water to form chemicals called trihalomethanes (THMs). One of these THM's is chloroform, a suspected cancer-causing agent.</i></p> <p>Cysts: <i>Protozoan parasites, such as cryptosporidium oocysts and Giardia lamblia cysts in drinking water, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and other flu-like symptoms that are longerlasting and more debilitating than most cases of the flu.</i></p>	<p>Pesticides and Herbicides: <i>Many agricultural chemicals like atrazine and alachlor have found their way into ground water sources. Many pesticides are toxic and are associated with a variety of health problems.</i></p> <p>Industrial Chemicals: <i>Though necessary in manufacturing, many industrial chemicals, if ingested, may cause increased risk of cancer and other illnesses. Some of the industrial chemicals that now threaten the purity and safeness of our water include: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polynuclear aromatics (PNAs), and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), such as TCE, benzene, and carbon tetrachloride</i></p>	<p>Lead: <i>The Environmental protection Agency (EPA) says that lead in drinking water can cause serious health problems. At low levels, reduced birth weight and premature birth, delayed mental and physical development, and impaired mental abilities found in children, may result. At high levels of exposure, anemia, kidney damage, and mental retardation can occur.</i></p> <p>Other Particulates: <i>Small fibers of asbestos, dirt, and other particles often can be found in drinking water.</i></p> <p><i>Note: No information exists to show that the examples described above pertain to your specific water system or supply.</i></p>
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Contamination, How Serious is It?

Even if your drinking water looks, tastes, and smells good, Chances are you can't tell if the water you depend on contains contaminants.

Here's What you're up against:

<p>FACT: <i>Millions of private and public wells have never been tested for contamination, but a five-year \$12 Million, nationwide survey was conducted by the EPA and released in 1990. Based on that survey, the EPA estimates that 14% of community wells and 4.2% of rural domestic wells have detectable levels of at least one pesticide.</i></p> <hr/> <p>FACT: <i>Even bottled water isn't necessarily without contamination. Some bottled water isn't always regularly monitored. In 1990, a bottled water survey by the Suffolk county, New York, health department tested bottled water sold in the county and found that 9 of 88 brands tested did not meet state and federal drinking water standards.</i></p> <hr/> <p>FACT: <i>Giardia Lamblia cysts have become the most common cause of water borne disease in the United States. Although reporting is voluntary, more than 23,000 cases of Giardia Lamblia caused disease were reported between 1960 and 1980. It also appears that the rate of outbreaks is increasing.</i></p>	<p>FACT: <i>Approximately 75% of U.S. households have chlorinated water. In 1987 a study sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the EPA found increased risk of bladder cancer with the long-term consumption of chlorinated drinking water. This is believed to be associated with the formation of disinfection by-products in water from chlorine, such as THM's.</i></p> <hr/> <p>FACT: <i>The U.S. Geological Survey has pinpointed sources of contamination in every state</i></p> <hr/> <p>FACT: <i>Major outbreaks of disease caused by Cryptosporidium oocysts were reported in Texas in 1985, in Georgia in 1987, and England in 1989. A limited sampling of western U.S. water found Cryptosporidium oocysts in 28% of treated drinking water samples evaluated. A study of eastern U.S. waters showed these oocysts present in 11 of 28 of the treated water samples.</i></p>
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