

# The Business and Technology Department's Summer "Going Green" Series

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Monday, July 28, 2014

Many BCCC faculty and staff members have asked me why I don't use bottled water in our electric teapot in the Business and Technology Department. Most of these people, like many Americans, have revealed they drink bottled water instead of tap water, making bottled water the second most popular beverage in the U.S., behind soda. People today consume twice as much bottled water as they did a decade ago, and the growth in the bottled water industry is unparalleled according to the Beverage Marketing Corporation.

But is bottled water healthier for you? Bottled water is considered a food; therefore, it is regulated by the FDA. Tap water is regulated by the EPA. The only requirement placed on bottled water is that it be as safe as tap water. But while the EPA makes cities test public drinking water daily, the FDA requires only yearly testing for bottled water. The EPA forbids the presence of bacteria, which indicates the presence of fecal material, but the FDA has no such rule.

Desani and Aquafina waters, two of the biggest brands in America, are reprocessed tap water from cities around the country. One of Aquafina's sources is the Detroit River. About one-fourth of bottled water is tap water, according to government and industry estimates.

One of the best kinds of water to drink is filtered water. Using a water filter in your home or office can be a big step toward restoring health to our drinking water.

BCCC faculty and staff, if you are to drink bottled water, make sure the bottler is a member of the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA), which guarantees the level of contaminants, if any, are below FDA standards. You might also go to the IBWA website at [www.bottledwater.org](http://www.bottledwater.org) to see which bottled water makers are members.

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