

Safety

What can I do to ensure safe use of bottled water?

- Store it in a cool, clean environment away from heat and sunlight. Although manufacturers give bottled water a best-before-date or shelf life of two years, Department of Environmental Health suggests you replace it after a year.
- Ensure that your delivered water is left in a cool, shady area. **DO NOT leave out in the sun.**
- Clean water coolers regularly.
- Use water dispensers with coolers that keep the water refrigerated.
- Clean the outside of the bottle cap and neck before replacing the bottle, wiping with the chlorine solution described above.

Replace

Replacing Bottle:

- Wash hands with soap and warm water before handling.
- Wipe the top and neck of the new bottle with a paper towel dipped in household bleach solution (1 tablespoon (15 mL) of bleach, 1 gallon (4.5 L) of water). Let dry. Rubbing alcohol may also be used, but must be completely evaporated before placing the bottle in the cooler.
- Remove cap from new bottle.
- Place new bottle on cooler.

For further information
Please contact DEH at
The following addresses below

Grand Cayman

Department of Environmental Health
P.O. Box 1820 GT
CI Environmental Center
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
KY1-1109
Tel: 345-949-6696
Fax: 345-949-4503

Cayman Brac & Little Cayman

Department of Environmental Health
P.O. Box 212 Stake Bay
Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands
KY2-2101
Tel: 345-948-2321
Fax: 345-948-2543

(May 2013)

BOTTLED WATER COOLERS

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water



Cayman Islands
Department of
Environmental Health
(DEH)

Buying

What should I look for when buying bottled water?

It is recommended that you take the following precautions:

- Don't buy bottles that have a broken seal. Examine the outside and inside of the bottle before you buy it. Do not buy any bottles with materials floating in it. Report any tampering or extraneous material to the store manager and health officials.
- Do not be fooled by impressive labels. Examine the bottle and label for date of manufacturing or manufacturing code, best-before-date, chemical analysis (declaration of minerals), treatment (e.g.. ozonized, distilled etc.), company contact number, location and type of source water.

Do not refill old bottles.

Please return to the manufacturer/producer. It is preferable to buy newly manufactured bottled water.



Cleaning

Cleaning your water cooler:

Clean your bottled water cooler with every bottle change

- Unplug cord from electrical outlet of cooler.
- Remove empty bottle.
- Drain water from the reservoir(s) through faucet(s).
- Prepare a disinfecting solution by adding one-tablespoon (15 mL) household bleach to one Imperial gallon (4.5 L) of water solution. (This solution should not contain less than 100 ppm available chlorine.)
- *Note: Other disinfecting solutions may be suitable. Please check with your water cooler supplier.*
- Wash reservoir thoroughly with bleach solution and let stand for not less than two minutes (to be effective) and not more than five minutes (to prevent corrosion).
- Drain the bleach solution from reservoir through faucet(s). Clean outside of faucets with clean cloth or paper towel dipped in the bleach solution.
- Rinse reservoir thoroughly with clean tap water, draining water through faucets, to remove traces of the bleach solution. If tap water is suspect i.e. from a well or cistern, bring to a rolling boil for 10 minutes and let cool before using to rinse the water cooler.

Cleaning the drip tray:

- Lift off drip tray (located under faucets).
- Remove the screen and wash both tray and screen in mild detergent.
- Rinse well in clean tap water and replace on cooler.

Storage

What is safe storage and use of bottled water?

The 18 L bottled water carboys should be dispensed through a refrigerated water cooler that is kept clean to avoid contamination.

Check the bottling date and best-before-date on the bottle to determine how fresh the product is. Like many other food products, bottled water normally contains low numbers of harmless bacteria.

However, if stored for prolonged periods at room temperatures, these bacteria can multiply rapidly.

Could I store and use bottled water in case of emergency?

Yes. You can store large quantities of bottled water in a basement or cool storage area in case of problems with municipal supplies, or in case of a natural disaster such as hurricane.

The water should be in well-sealed containers, kept out of direct sunlight and changed every year.

Bottled water manufacturers indicate that their product has a two-year shelf life.

