

BOTTLED WATER

Identity standards

Bottled water is generally categorized according to the source and methods used to treat it.

The Food and Drug Administration has established the following identity standards for bottled-water products sold in the United States. Some of the more common types of bottled water are:

Artesian water: This is water from a confined aquifer that has been tapped and in which the water level stands at some height above the top of the aquifer.

Fluoridated: This type of water contains fluoride added within the limitations established in federal regulations. This category includes water classified as "for infants" or "nursery."

Ground water: This type of water is from a subsurface saturated zone that is under a pressure equal to or greater than atmospheric pressure.

Mineral water: Mineral water contains at least 250 parts per million total dissolved solids, comes from a source tapped at one or more bore holes or springs, and originates from a geologically and physically protected underground water source. No minerals may be added to this water.

Purified water: This type of water has been produced by distillation, deionization, reverse osmosis, or other suitable processes. Purified water may also be referred to as "demineralized water."

Sparkling water: Sparkling water contains the same amount of carbon dioxide that it had at emergence from the source. The carbon dioxide may be removed and replenished after treatment.

Spring water: This type of water comes from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the Earth's surface.

Sterile water: This type of water meets the sterility regulations.

Well water: Well water is taken from a hole tapping, etc. This hole may be bored, drilled, or otherwise constructed in the ground.

Source: National Sanitation Foundation

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