

Lauren Dewey
Are You Still Thirsty?

My purpose was to see which source of water and which container has more bacteria. Maybe the water is pure, but the container's mouthpiece is unclean. I took 5 different filtered water sources, 10 different tap or private sources, 10 different water bottles, and 10 different public sources. I took a sample of each water, swabbed each mouthpiece, and put the samples in different sterile containers. I rubbed the samples on nutrient agar Petri dishes at school. The filtered water was fairly clean, compared to the other samples; one had 73 colonies, but that was the highest; the rest were lower range-29 or lower. The tap, or private sources were just about the same cleanliness. The highest number of colonies was 55. The bottled water was different. There was one type, number 9, which had 188 colonies, but the rest were under 20. Public water was similar; Public 1 had 181 colonies and the rest were low. Over half the containers were fairly decent, less than 100 colonies per sample. Four filtered water containers (#2-#5), ten public water containers (#11-#20) and one bottled water container (#21) all had TNTC-Too Numerous To Count. Two tap/private water containers (#31 and #35) had bacteria colonies higher than 100 but less than TNTC. The water is clean for the most part- all of it less than 100 colonies per sample, but almost half the containers have so much bacteria-more than 100 colonies-that the sources of that water need to be sanitized.