

## **ChrisColes**

The primary problem on the aircraft is that, the cabin pressure reduces as the plane flies higher and thus the boiling point temperature of the water reduces accordingly; and that is why the crew do not drink coffee or tea. The supposedly boiling water never reaches 100C and thus is never safe to drink.

Posted On 07/05/2017

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## **dauidle**

I'll never drink coffee on an airplane again. I certainly don't want to drink any water from their storage tanks. Thanks for the article.

Posted On 07/05/2017

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## Almond

Good to know. I order bottled mineral water or Perrier, when available. Beware of what you are given as it may be tap water, not spring water. I have ordered green tea in the past, but will no longer do so. I avoid soft drinks as I feel even worse if I consume them at a high altitude than I do on the ground.

Definitely travel with some your own food. Put approved stuff in clear baggies and pack snack bars in a suitcase. I rarely find airline food to be edible, at least in the US. (esp. if allergies, processed foods) At one time, I looked forward to Lufthansa meals. I recall the shock of Lufthansa when exiting the old Soviet Union. It was like I had died and gone to heaven to see butter, cheese and real meat again after almost never even seeing chicken. Rarely, we might get a few morsels meat that were by-products of the fur industry (nutria, mink), 3 small chunks. I wish we could still get plain quinine water. Nowadays, all the brands are sweetened and I preferred the bitter flavor. This makes a lot of sense for fliers in certain parts of the world. Back then, you also used to get the whole can.

The worst airline beverage service I ever saw was in the old Soviet Union... traveling on what was probably a converted military plane that shook and rattled. We peeked thru a filthy and ragged cloth curtain to see the stewardess refilling unwashed glasses and giving them to the next row of passengers--the same glasses earlier passengers drank from, without washing them. All that was available was apple juice ("apfel slivovee") We also observed that they had vending machines in the Soviet Union about 40+ years ago, but no disposable cups. You put your coins in and held the cup under the spigot. The solution was to place one glass cup under the outflow valve. Replace it when you were done. Everyone used the same cup. We bought water to brush our teeth. There was cheap liquor, though. A friend accidentally spilled some and it immediately stripped the varnish off furniture

Posted On 07/05/2017

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## Mamabear427

Almond - I agree with you on the quinine water - it really helps with restless legs on a long flight. Now that I have magnesium "oil" I think I'll use that to rub on my legs before the flight. Like you, I dislike all of the sugar in tonic water. And I don't care to fly, either!

Posted On 07/05/2017

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## Guillermou

According to a 2019 airline water study published by DietDetective.com and the Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center at the City University of New York, “many airlines may have provided passengers with unhealthy water.” The study, which lasted seven months, investigated the water quality on board 11 major and 12 regional airlines and then ranked them accordingly. Alaska Airlines and Allegiant had the best water quality scores of the major airlines at 3.3, while JetBlue and Spirit Airlines had the worst, tying for bottom with water health scores of 1 on a scale of 0 to 5. Nearly all of the regional airlines studied received poor water health scores, with the exception of Piedmont Airlines, which scored 4.33.

Republic Airways came in last with a score of 0.44. One of the investigations published in 2015 in the 'International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health' spoke of “bacteria that travel” to qualify the quality of the water. After analyzing 154 samples, scientists concluded that the water from long-distance flights was much worse quality than that from short ones. When did the contamination occur? Surprisingly, not so much in the plane's own tanks as in the vehicle that transports the water to the device.

In this, the chlorine level skyrocketed, which can cause poisoning. And, although the quality of the bacteria varied significantly between planes, lines and flights, the researchers found a total of 37 different kinds of bacteria. In 2002, 'The Wall Street Journal' already published a famous report reporting that salmonella, staphylococcus and small insect eggs were found. “What is worse is that pollution is the rule, not the exception,” the report noted. “Almost all bacteria levels are 10, sometimes hundreds of times, above the government limits.” The advice the newspaper gave? “Bring your own bottle!”

Posted On 04/22/2024

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## Guillermou

The US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) found in 2013 that 12% of flights in 2012 had tested positive for coliform, a group of bacterial species that includes the harmful E. Coli. A very small decrease compared to the results obtained a decade before, when the percentage was 15%. Something especially serious after the approval of the Aircraft Drinking Water Rule in 2011, which attempted to address this problem once and for all. "Sometimes, the vehicle that carries the drinking water for washing hands and making coffee is located next to the one used to empty the toilets and fill the blue liquid in the sinks," explained user Mudbutt7.

"It's not supposed to be done. Sometimes, they are at a safe distance from each other, which is the policy to follow, but sometimes the guy filling the tank uses gloves that he has not changed in more than two years." Another forum member explained why coffee sometimes tastes so bad. "No one cleans the bin that comes out every morning," WorseToWorser recalls. "The workers who are paid very little don't care that it is clean.

At least I didn't care when I worked for AA [American Airlines]." They do not even have the necessary means to clean these storage systems, he added. [www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2019/09/20/new-report-reveals-cleanlines..](http://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2019/09/20/new-report-reveals-cleanlines..) (2019).-- [www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/news/Airlines-drinking-water-fails-hygiene-..](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/news/Airlines-drinking-water-fails-hygiene-..) [www.businessinsider.com/airplane-tap-water-tainted-epa-faa-fda-flight-..](http://www.businessinsider.com/airplane-tap-water-tainted-epa-faa-fda-flight-..) [www.elconfidencial.com/alma-corazon-vida/2017-02-24/beber-agua-cafe-av..](http://www.elconfidencial.com/alma-corazon-vida/2017-02-24/beber-agua-cafe-av..) [maldita.es/.../evitar-te-cafe-vuelo-avion](http://maldita.es/.../evitar-te-cafe-vuelo-avion) .---

Posted On 04/22/2024

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## billstri

I bring my own well used empty water bottle and fill it after the security check-in. Most airports have water dispensers for filling your own water bottles with filtered city water, located as part of the water fountain next to the restrooms. As for water bottles shedding plastic, most of that shedding occurs when the plastic bottle is brand new. So when I buy a water bottle, I look for a sturdy bottle and then I empty it out and rinse it and put my own water in it. I have sturdy bottles that I have re-used more than a hundred times over several years. Re-using many times is far better than recycling and buying new.

I never had one that leaks and they don't break and make a mess when they are dropped. As for fluoride in city water, I fly very rarely, so getting a few bottles of it a couple times per year is nothing compared to everyone in that city drinking it every day and every night. Nearly all of my flights are no more than a few hours long, so one bottle is usually enough. You sit in very crowded conditions for the entire flight and it is difficult to move around and it is normally cold, so you don't sweat much.

But if you are on a 12-hour long flight over the pond, I am not sure what you can do except get the free bottled water they pass out. Usually, the air in the cabin is mostly re-circulated to save fuel to heat it, so it is not as dry as it used to be 10 years ago when all cabin air was fresh. At high altitudes, the air outdoors is around minus 55 degrees below zero and costs a lot to heat it to +68 F or +20 C, so they recycle it, filter it, and use it again. In a tightly crammed packed cabin, everyone breathing greatly increases the humidity in recycled air.

Posted On 04/22/2024

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## livetohikeyahoo.com

I was a flight attendant for 30 years with a major US airline. Half way through my career we started carrying bottled water on board...it was the best thing that ever happened to us as crew. As far as the coffee and tea goes...we all drank it. I think the pilots lived on it. People need to be more concerned with moldy ice in restaurants than water on airplanes.

Posted On 04/22/2024

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**czd5979**

Moldy ice in restaurants? Can you please explain?

Posted On 04/25/2024

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**Itsmyright**

I noticed on planes that the water in plastic containers all taste of plastic, definitely wouldnt drink it.

Posted On 04/22/2024

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**pal4949**

If they know this is an issue, why don't they install RO water filters onboard?

Posted On 04/22/2024

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**six3560**

30 years ago, when I was a pilot with a major US airline, anytime one of our airplanes returned from Mexico to the US, all the tanked water on the plane was dumped onto the concrete below the airplane. Fresh US water was loaded. We knew that the treated water loaded in Mexico was possibly suspect. While this may no longer be true, it certainly was in the past. The only time I ever became sick, was after a visit to Acapulco. I had the worst case of Montezuma's Revenge of my life.

Posted On 04/22/2024

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## Almond

if you travel abroad and need to buy bottled water for brushing your teeth, consider sparkling mineral water. The foaming action makes rinsing much easier.

Posted On 04/22/2024

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