

Insuring access to pure water resources

“Water is the driving force of all nature.” - Leonardo Da Vinci

There are few things as essential to the well-being and stability of a community as is access to pure drinking water. The importance of this vital resource cannot be overestimated. Pure water is a fundamental necessity for survival and physical health. Next to air itself, it is the second most important requirement. Without water, we die in less than a week.

The availability of water has dictated the course of great civilizations. Some have collapsed when previously dependable water sources failed: the Maya in the Yucatan, the Anasazi in the Four Corners of the American Southwest, the Garamantian civilization of the central Sahara, and Mesopotamia in the Fertile Crescent. All failed, in part or whole, to drought and diminished access to water. In the present day humanity faces the specter of water scarcity, escalating costs, over-regulation, saltwater intrusion in coastal wells, privatization, and legislation that excludes common man's access to water.

If we fail to secure and protect our public water systems, and allow the water cartels to privatize our water rights, then our civilization will follow in the dusty footprints of the Mayans and the Anasazi.

Essential water

To maintain health and well-being we need to drink from reliable sources of pure water. Water nourishes our bodies in many ways, and also helps us detoxify, by flushing out man-made toxins, uric acid, and other byproducts.

It is said that the best water comes from springs, mountain streams, artesian wells and deep wells. But water quality does vary widely from place to place, even from well to well.

Every natural water source contains a variety of minerals. It can also contain salts, heavy metals and other contaminants not beneficial to one's health. Some deep wells near my home contain high levels of barium, which is just as toxic as arsenic.

Reliable sources of pure drinking water are becoming rare as supplies dwindle. And those who control access to the sources have tapped into a source of great wealth and power.

It has, therefore, become increasingly vital for individuals to find, and secure access to good sources of potable water. Access to pure water is so important, that it should be a key factor in either abandoning one's present home, or relocating to a new community.

Sacred Water

Ancient peoples such as the Kelts of Ireland believed that nature spirits inhabited streams, springs and artesian wells. They attributed all manner of magical occurrences and powers to these mystic waters. Holy wells throughout the British Isles are reputed to be places of great power and healing.

One of the most revered sacred wells in Europe is the Chalice Well of Glastonbury. This well has been used continuously since prehistoric times, and has never run dry. The Chalice Well is considered to be a gateway to the spirit world, where communication with beings from other realms is possible.

Many Catholic shrines have been built upon sacred wells and springs. The most famous of these is Lourdes in France, where hundreds of thousands of people have come for divine healing. Sixty six miraculous healings have been authenticated by the Vatican, and these are still occurring to the faithful who visit Lourdes.



Other famous Catholic sacred wells and springs include the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadeloupe in Mexico City, Saint Winifred's Well in Treffynnon England and the Spring of Grace in Fontanelle Italy.

Sacred wells and healing springs are not just limited to Italy and the British Isles. They exist throughout the world. There are over 200 commercially operated therapeutic hot springs in the United States. Over 1660 hot springs are listed by the National Geophysical data center in the Western half of the U.S.

The most famous therapeutic hot springs in the U.S. are: Eureka Springs in Arkansas, Ojo Caliente near Santa Fe New Mexico, Tonopah Hot Springs in Arizona, and the renowned Calistoga Hot Springs in California. These mineral hot springs have all been used by indigenous peoples for thousands of years.

Some sacred wells streams and rivers have achieved mythic status due to their healing or mind-altering qualities. A popular belief has entered the collective consciousness that pure water is actually alive, and that this life force benefits us greatly. The more alive and energized the water is, the greater the benefits to our health and well-being. These water mystics also believe that processing and chlorinating water, as well as running the pressurized water through metal pipes, kills its elemental life force.

Scientists and water wizards

In the past decade there has been a surge of interest in the works of mystic water pioneers and researchers such as: Viktor Schauberger, Nobel Prize winner Dr. Alex Carrell, Austrian Inventor Johanne Grander, and Dr. Masuru Emoto researcher and author of *Messages from Water*.

These researchers shared the belief that water is much more than simple H₂O. Schauberger, Carrell, Grander and Emoto all believe that pure water possesses remarkable qualities—that water is literally alive, aware, and that it imprints, or records the energies that it encounters. This programming can be either positive or negative, and has a demonstrable effect on living beings. Positive imprinting alters the water's physical, chemical and energetic qualities, and is reported to benefit those who drink it.

The four water pioneers believed that water treatment plants, chemical additives, water pressure, and contact with metal pipes are factors detrimental to living water, and are, in turn, bad for those who drink it, cook with it, or bathe in it.

When living water runs free its vital forces are enhanced. Stored drinking water should be kept in containers that allow it to circulate. The best container shapes are round, egg shaped or cylindrical. Egg shaped containers are preferred.



<http://www.livingwaterflowforms.com/amphora.htm>, <http://www.implosionresearch.com/item--The-Water-Egg--WE.html>

This natural egg shape facilitates a consistent flow of energy unhampered by corners or the sharp angles.

Regardless of the metaphysical aspects of water, most people would agree that it is a remarkable substance. And they would also likely agree that there is a finite amount of water on Earth.

Water supports and sustains all life on Earth. It moves up and down the food chain, passing from one life form to another in an endless cycle of sustainability. Dinosaurs drank the same water that we are drinking today. Yata, yata,... you get the idea.

“Water is life’s mater and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water.” - Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Hungarian Biochemist, 1937 Nobel Prize for Medicine

Who Owns the rain?

There is a source of water that falls free from the skies. It can be collected, filtered and stored. This is called rainwater harvesting, or catchment. Roof water catchment is a free and easy way of collecting rainwater from a roof. The water can then be stored in a pond, a tank or a cistern, filtered to remove impurities, then used for drinking, bathing, laundry, and cleaning.

Humans have been collecting rainwater for many thousands of years. We will go more deeply into the nuts and bolts of this important topic later in this article.

Today many Northwesterners harvest abundant rainwater and use it for their lawns and gardens. Unfortunately, our traditional right to harvest rain is imperiled in the West. A clever strategy for gaining control of rainwater has been legislated and implemented in Colorado, Utah and other Western states. New laws make it illegal to harvest rainwater from roofs. My home state of Washington will sell you a rainwater catchment permit for \$50 per year.

Colorado's and Utah's water rights are strictly regulated and enforced. They view roof water in the same way as tributaries which supply water to local streams. This legislated gordian knot makes rainwater catchment virtually illegal.

Fines for using unauthorized roof water are stiff. Those who "steal" the rainwater from their own roofs can be fined \$500 per day. These draconian laws are on the books, and are being firmly enforced. Colorado's water allocation programs deserved close scrutiny as it is likely that this policy will go nationwide in the near future.

"The use of water in this state and other western states is governed by what is known as the *prior appropriation doctrine*." A simplified way to explain this system is often referred to as the priority system or "first in time, first in right." "*The first person to appropriate water and apply that water to use has the first right to that water within a particular stream system.*"

When we translate this legalese it reads: Whoever acquires the water resource first owns it, and gets to continue using it. This includes rainwater which would eventually flow into a shared stream or river.

"Practically speaking, it means that in most river drainage, a person cannot divert rainwater and put it to a beneficial use without a plan for augmentation that replaces the depletions associated with that diversion." - by the Colorado Division of Water Resources / April 2003 / <http://water.state.co.us/pubs/policies/waterharvesting.pdf>

This cryptic statement translates to: You may be allowed to use the rainwater harvested off of your roof, but you must make arrangements to divert water from another source to replace the water lost to roof catchment. You have to replace the water you use!

Homeowners are essentially banned from harvesting rainwater, as extensive permitting variances and periodic reviews are prohibitive. Just the engineering study required is cost prohibitive.

The Ruling Elite have effectively sewn up water rights in Colorado, Washington and other Western states. They actually own the rainfall, dictate how it is used, and determine who gets to use it. Just another way of pacifying, subjugating and controlling the human race.

"Who owns the rain? Not you, it turns out. You're actually breaking the law if you capture the rain falling on your roof and pour it on your flower bed! A prominent Utah car dealer/car wash found that out when he tried to use rainwater, and do something good for the environment."

source: by John Hollenhorst / www.KSL.com / Catching rain water is against the law / August 12th, 2008 @ 11:49pm

The Escalating Value of Water

Mankind is rapidly depleting Earth's reserves of fresh water. As water shortages become commonplace around the globe, the value of this vital resource will skyrocket and the Elite will use it as leverage to further control us.

"Behind the world food crisis is a global freshwater crisis, expected to rapidly worsen as

climate change impacts intensify,” Mr. Leape said. “Irrigation-fed agriculture provides 45 per cent of the world’s food supplies, and without it, we could not feed our planet’s population of six billion people.”

“Many of the world’s irrigation areas, however, from wealthy to less developed nations, are highly stressed and drawing more water than rivers and groundwater reserves can sustain.

Freshwater food reserves are also declining in the face of the quickening pace of dam construction and unsustainable water extractions from rivers.” source: Behind world food crisis is a world water crisis, World Wildlife Fund /

http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=143642

Within our lifetimes, the scarcity of pure water will lead to international conflicts, igniting into full blown resource and water wars. The elite, as usual, will incite these conflicts, then be strategically positioned to take full advantage of the fluctuations in water supply and demand. The thirsty will demand and they will gladly supply our needs, by price gouging and using water as a bargaining chip.

The global elite are determined to gain control of the world’s remaining pure water resources, and are able to devote vast energies to accomplishing this goal. They are the main reason that we individuals must secure our own independent water rights.

Water survival requirements

Humans can survive on as little as one pint of water per day. But a more realistic figure for emergency preparedness is between one and two gallon(s) per-person, per-day. When estimating water requirements for longer periods, such as several weeks or months, four gallons per-person/per-day is a more comfortable figure. This amount allows for needs beyond base survival requirements: personal hygiene (sponge baths), hand washing, cooking, dishes, etc. The U.N. recommends 10 gallons per-person/per-day to cover minimum daily water requirements .

The U.N did not factor in toilet flushing in their 10 gallons per day estimate. This is because two to four gallons of water are needed to flush a water-saver toilet. Double this amount for flushing a conventional model. Flush water wastes 1/3 of all fresh water resources. Don’t use your precious drinking water to flush toilets. Use dish water (Gray water), unfiltered rainwater, or water from a nearby stream or pond. Or better yet, join the revolution and put in a dry composting toilet.

Composting toilets use no water, and have become very popular worldwide because of their practicality, economy and ease of use. I am putting in a LovableLoo™ sawdust toilet into my vintage trailer soon. YouTube has a number of clips about the LovableLoo™.



During short term emergencies, people can comfortably survive on bottled water for days or weeks. But for extended emergencies bottled water is just not practical. It simply takes too much storage space. At four gallons of water per-person per-day, this adds up to 120 gallons per person/per month. If there are four people in your family, then the water cache would be 480 gallons. Imagine the storage space required for 480 gallon sized containers. This is another motivating reason for us to secure access to local, free water resources. You simply cannot store enough of the precious liquid to survive for very long.

Reasons that we do not want to be dependent on municipal water systems

Many municipal water plants in the United States are antiquated and in poor repair. Sewer lines and water lines are often placed side-by-side out of convenience and economic reasons. But when these old pipes leak there is a real threat of cross-contamination. Municipal water treatment plants use chlorine to combat the E-choli and fecal coliform bacteria from the leaks.

Most American water treatment plants still use chlorine as the primary disinfectant. Chlorination has been the standard treatment since the early 1900s. Chlorine is inexpensive, and effectively sterilizes the water. Unfortunately, it also produces organic hydrocarbons called trihalomethanes (THMs) (known carcinogens), and halogenated organic byproducts (chlorinated, brominated, or poly-substituted organic compounds) which have been linked to a number of long-term health effects. Our local town managers recently warned put out a public alert that trihalomethanes found in the municipal water far exceeded permissible limits.

“Typically, a glass of treated water contains a chemical cocktail: Chlorine, added to disinfect, can produce contaminants. Ammonia sometimes added to disinfect forms another concoction. Alum and polymers that settle out dirt, and caustic soda, ferric chloride and lime that prevent pipe corrosion or soften water can increase aluminum, sulfates and salts.” - The High-Stakes Balancing Act Of Water Treatment/ Time Union / <http://www.clo2.com/reading/archive/high.html>

Water from municipal water systems is of unreliable quality. It is contaminated with byproducts from the water treatment process, industrial chemicals, chlorine, fluorine, and many pharmaceuticals such as antidepressants. The treatment facilities are designed to remove organic materials and bacteria. Unfortunately many chemical contaminants, such as PCBs, salts, and heavy metals do not precipitate out. These substances pass right through the processing plants and back into the main water lines.

The element Chlorine is the most commonly used water purification agent. Chlorine is highly toxic even in its purest form, yet most municipalities use cheaper grades for economic reasons. These cheaper grades of chlorine contain impurities and trace amounts of other toxic chemicals. Chlorine is easily absorbed through the skin and digestive track, and has been linked to many health issues.

Fluoride is another common water, food, and toothpaste additive. It has been proven by numerous studies to be highly toxic, a known carcinogen, and does very little to reduce tooth decay after early childhood. There is solid evidence that fluoride is actually bad for your teeth. Regardless of the health impacts, fluorine is added to the water by 60% of US municipal water systems.

If fluoride does little or nothing to prevent tooth decay, then why is it being added to our drinking water? In the 20th century it was discovered that tiny amounts of Fluoride ingested over time dramatically affected human health and behavior. Subjects became passive, lethargic, and were unable to resist the commands of authority figures. This is why fluoride was widely used in Nazi concentration camps, and later in Soviet Gulags, Chinese and North Korean prison camps.

Fluorine is a powerful neural agent, and this is the most likely reason for its widespread use in American water treatment today: the pacification of the American people. Many bottled water producers are now adding sodium fluoride to their “Purified” water. Even the makers of PUR water filters add fluoride to their cartridges.

Our tainted water systems

It is a fact that most of the municipal water processed in the United States, Canada and Mexico is not fit to drink. It is so loaded with toxins, heavy metals, chlorine, fluoride, copper, PVC, and numerous industrial chemicals and compounds.

Traditional water treatment is effective in killing bacteria, but unless reverse osmosis or other effective multi stage or micro filtration, it is not fit to drink straight out of the faucet. The chlorination of drinking water produces toxic byproducts—organic hydrocarbons known as trihalomethanes (THMs) (known carcinogens), and halogenated organic byproducts (chlorinated, brominated, or poly-substituted organic compounds). All of these have been linked to long-term degenerative health effects, and they are in our drinking water.

The municipal water flowing from our taps is so contaminated that it must be filtered before drinking using good quality water purification systems. To help assist you in choosing the right filtering system, there are excellent online water filter reviews.

Commercial coin-op filtering machines are another alternate option providing high quality drinking water. These utilize reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light, carbon block filtration and other effective purification methods to deliver a quality product at a low price; usually between 25-50 cents per gallon. These are designed to produce large amounts of pure drinking water from local municipal water, and these state of the art coin-op water filters do provide a decent product. But customer must provide their own clean water containers, and be prepared to haul the heavy filled bottles home.

The emerging global water crisis: pollution, privatization, resource depletion.

Like other vital natural resources, access to sufficient quantities of potable water is being jeopardized on a global scale. The contributing threats include: drought, agricultural pollution, aquifer depletion, chemical additives (such as chlorine and fluorine), over-regulation, antiquated municipal water systems, and the greatest threat of all... the privatization of public water systems and resources by multinational corporations.

Groundwater contamination is a widespread problem throughout the world, and contributes to the increasing scarcity of pure water reserves. Man-made contaminants such as petroleum, herbicides such as Monsanto’s Roundup™,* BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene) and PCBs are the more common contaminants. PCBs come from leaky electrical transformers and are highly poisonous.

* Monsanto produces 160 million gallons of the herbicide Roundup per year.

The World Bank reported in the late 1990’s that eighty countries were experiencing water shortages, while 40% of the world lacked access to both clean water and sanitation. These shortages will undoubtedly continue to worsen. In the next hundred years water will be one of the most rare and valuable substances on Earth.

“Water has become a highly precious resource. There are some places where a barrel of water costs more than a barrel of oil.” - Lloyd Axworthy, Foreign Minister of Canada (1999 - News Conference)

“Water promises to be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th: the precious commodity that determines the wealth of nations.” - Fortune Magazine / May, 2000

The United States has been historically renowned for its vast water resources. Sadly, the days unimaginable expanses of open fresh water are gone. This vital resource has been heavily exploited, contaminated, mismanaged, stolen, privatized, and squandered for over one hundred years.

The largest underground aquifer in America is the High Plains Aquifer. At the current rate of depletion it will be bone dry in less than 20 years. Another primary aquifers in the US is the Ogallala aquifer located beneath Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming, are being rapidly tapped dry.

The original source of the Ogallala aquifer is from fossilized water from the melting of the last ice age. Once depleted, it may not recharge again until after the next ice age. Once the aquifers are gone, it is over for most of the farmers there.

Losing this resource would decimate America’s vast corn and grain belts, and this is the primary reason that many of these farmers there are moving to dry land, drought-tolerant crops. Nearly all of these will be GMO creations. A widespread scarcity of water in the near future will cause an inevitable acceptance of questionable, and barely-tested GMO crops genetically modified to require minimal water. This may be a short-term boon to the American farmer, but there will undoubtedly be unforeseen complications and dangers. One of these dangers is the transmigration of DNA from one organism to another, from GMO to wild varieties.

There are regional water resource problems. Most U.S. aquifers on the East, West and Gulf coasts are suffering from salt water intrusion. As the fresh water is pumped out, salty water is pulled in from the ocean, which contaminates the fresh water with brine. Well water samples from Michigan to New York are heavily contaminated with pesticides, heavy metals, and industrial wastes.

An increasing number of U.S. cities have growing populations that are outpacing available water supplies. In Denver, Las Vegas, San Diego, Phoenix and Los Angeles booming population growth and drought years have made water supplies critically low. To compound this growing problem, legal and illegal immigration adds millions of thirsty newcomers to these urban areas every year.

Across America, Canada and Mexico municipal water systems are struggling to keep up with demands. The increasing need for domestic, agricultural and industrial water is signaling an end to an era of unlimited growth and expansionism. Everyone is competing increasingly for this dwindling resource.

Municipalities that rely on rivers, lakes and pristine forest watersheds now have to defend them from development, overuse, contamination, exploitation and encroachment. The culprits are real estate development, road building, logging, and ever-expanding urban populations. Competing interests s overburdened the watersheds. As a result, it is essential to secure access to local pure water resources if we intend on surviving the next few decades.

Water and the Ruling Elite

“Wars of the 21st century will be about water.” - Ismail, Serageldin Vice President of the World Bank

Multinational corporations owned by the Ruling Elite have already acquired large portions of the worlds last remaining public water reserves. Nine international water cartels now control a large portion of Earth’s total pure water resources.

“The *Globe and Mail* of Canada states that privatizing water looms as the national mega-

industry of the next decade, with potential investment in the tens of billions of dollars. 'Water is fast becoming a globalized corporate industry.' 'In May 2000, *Fortune magazine* stated that, in a world fleeing the vagaries of technology stocks, water is the best investment sector for the century. The World Bank places the value of the current water market at close to \$1 trillion.'" from *Blue Gold* - by Maude Barlow / National Chairperson, Council of Canadians Chair, International Forum on Globalization (IFG) Committee - http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Water/Water_Privateers_BG.html

Primary International Water Cartels (2000 data)

- SUEZ serves 117.4 million water customers on five continents
- Veolia Environnement, 108.2 million
- RWETHames Water 69.5 million
- Aguas de Barcelona, 35.2 million
- SAUR, 33.5 million
- SABESP, 25.1 million (based in France)
- Bechtel/United Utilities, 22.1 million
- Enron/Wessex Water PLC 2.5 million
- Global Power Investments LP/General Electric (and George Soros)

All of the nine cartels are expanding exponentially. They have grown an average of 500% in less than ten years.

In the Americas Bechtel/United Utilities Corporation has emerged as the dominant player in the growing water privatization markets. Their goal is to acquire exclusive rights to all available water resources in North America, Canada, Central and South America. This privatization of former public assets, is fully supported and funded by the World Bank and the IMF.

"In recent years 'privatization' has become an economic theology in Latin America, driven by a set of commandments written by the U.S., and the U.S.-dominated lenders, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The commandments are simple. Thou shalt sell your public enterprises to private corporations and investors, almost always from abroad. Thou shalt allow those new owners to do what they will with prices, wages and products. In exchange, supposedly, those businesses will receive a fresh transfusion of foreign capital (and the IMF and World Bank won't cut off your international loans)." - by Jim Shultz / executive director of the Democracy Center / <http://www.democracyctr.org/waterwar/>

In 1999 Bechtel was able to pull off a hostile takeover of the Bolivian government's municipal water systems. But their victory was short lived. As the Bolivian people received their first monthly water bills from Bechtel, they became outraged., many water bills jumped from \$5 per month to between \$20 and \$30. This was an outrage in a country where the average wage is less than \$100 per month. Bolivians found that they could no longer afford this essential resource.

Bolivia's farmers, who had never paid for their irrigation water, also began receiving monthly bills from Bechtel. Prices quickly doubled, and then tripled, threatening to drive many of the nation's agricultural concerns out of business.

In the middle of January, 2000 the people held a nationwide general strike to protest Bechtel's water policies. All transportation and public services came to a standstill, and Bolivia ground to a halt.

On the fourth day of the strike a peaceful protest march was held in Cochabamba. The government responded with 1,000 riot police. After two days of protests and riots, 175 protesters were injured, two blinded by U.S. supplied tear gas, and one protester was killed.

On the fourth day nonviolent protesters confronted the government officials in Cochabamba, then stormed and occupied the water plants. Just as President Hugo Banzer Suárez was about to declare martial law, the Government backed down. They agreed to the demands of the protesters, revoked all of the water-privatization contracts and kicked Bechtel out of the country.

The Bolivian people successfully revolted against Bechtel and the governmental representatives who had betrayed them. It was a small, but important victory for the inalienable water rights of the common people.

This story had a very short happy ending. The Ruling Elite abandoned their factories and resources in Bolivia. But they continued to work from behind the scenes, through crooked politicians and gangsters. Once the People got the factories up and running, and were once again providing a good product at a fair price, the elite began using lawyers, legislation, and police agencies to reclaim the factories. The Elite will never abandon their plans to gain control of Bolivia's water resources. Regardless, it was a small setback for them.

The World Bank and the IMF are fully committed to their agenda of privatizing water resources across the globe. They are working hand-in-glove with multinationals like Bechtel to insure that future water uprisings will not interfere with their master plans.

The World Bank and IMF only bankroll water systems ripe for privatization, and only with strategic partners who can guarantee government compliance. They have created a global high water command (cabal) to regulate and enforce their programs through the United Nations, Agenda 21, and Codex Alimentarius.

The Ruling Elite will continue to engulf and devour Earth's vital natural resources unless they are stopped. They are determined to own and control all of Earth's valuable resources, and have devoted fortunes to accomplishing this goal.

Water as a weapon

Once considered a free and plentiful public resource, water is now seen as a profitable commodity. It is also wielded as a weapon for controlling and subjugating human populations. The Elite have devoted enormous resources and energy to acquiring control of Earth's remaining pure water reserves. If this bold plan were to succeed, they would have gained a powerful tool of leverage, and highly persuasive methods of insuring compliance from an occupied people.

It is relatively easy to manage a subservient population if one controls access to their water supplies. This strategy has been used many times throughout history. During World War II the Nazis cut off food and drinking water to 540,000 Polish Jews in the Warsaw and Lodz Jewish ghettos in Poland, as part of Operation Reinhard.

This same strategy has been used by American occupying forces in Iraq, when water systems were shut down or destroyed by U.S. forces to suppress Iraqi insurgents. This occurred in Tall Afar, Samarra, Fallujah, and Najaf. The policy also affected more than 750,000 Iraqi civilians.

“This appears to form part of a deliberate US policy of denying water to the residents of cities under attack. If so, it has been adopted without a public debate, and without consulting Coalition partners. It is a serious breach of international humanitarian law, and is deepening Iraqi opposition to the United States, other Coalition members, and the Iraqi interim government.” - Denial Of Water To Iraqi Cities, from a briefing prepared for CASI by Daniel O’Huiginn and Alison Klevnas / <http://rense.com/general59/denialofwatertoiraq.htm>

Securing private water resources - Soon, when water conflicts become commonplace, those who have failed to secure access to local pure water will be increasingly vulnerable to shortages, and the whims of a cruel elite. It is essential, therefore, for readers to do whatever is possible now to gain access to, and develop their own local water resources. The goal is to become water self-

reliant. This may involve practicing extreme water conservation, building a (stealth) water catchment system, hand-digging a pond or surface well, drilling a deep well, or developing other local water resources. Water self-reliance will require water storage and purification.

It is essential for human survival that individuals, families and groups secure free access to local water supplies. This is the only way we can insure our basic survival needs, and defend ourselves from the elite's use of drinking water as a weapon against us.

Today, five out of every six Americans get their water from municipal water systems. Only one out of six—roughly forty-eight million people—get their drinking water from private or household wells. The people with access to good wells are among the most fortunate, and it behooves readers to join their ranks.

Within one decade the majority of people on Earth may be entirely dependent on the corporations of the Ruling Elite for their drinking water. Those of us who have remained water independent will be safe beyond their clutches.

Supplementing an existing water system - Pure drinking water is an absolute necessity. We need an uninterrupted supply in order to survive. If we do not have adequate money needed to create an independent water system, then it behooves us to find ways of supplement the resources we do have. Let's summarize possible options for improving and enhancing access to pure water. We can:

- continue to rely on the local municipal water system, but purify, bottle and store additional supplies for emergencies
- supplement municipal water with a drinking water delivery-service, or water from a commercial coin-op filtration machine
- design and build a roof catchment system for harvesting and storing rainwater
- divert water from a nearby stream, pond or other surface water source
- dig a surface well next to a stream, river, pond or lake
- dig a pond to collect and store surface water

Water Delivery Services - Commercial bottled water delivery services are another option for home drinking water. But these have been judged by *Consumer Reports* to be both costly, and of unreliable quality. Many brands were found to be contaminated with detergent residue from the bottle washing process, as the bottles are used over and over. In addition, the large and heavy water bottles require home delivery, which increases the cost. They demand heavy lifting and pose additional security concerns from the delivery personnel. With escalating fuel costs, having one's bottled drinking water delivered to your home may prove uneconomical in the near future.

Bottled water - Everyone should maintain a stash of bottled water as part of their emergency preparedness kits, enough for every person in your family for several weeks. This is recommended by most preparedness experts. Bottled water can be purchased, or filled and sealed by hand to reduce the costs. Commercial bottled water stores well, remaining potable for long periods of time.

It is not practical to rely exclusively on bottled water for lengthy periods of time. This is due to the large volume of space required for storage (visualize 500 gallon bottles of water in a room). Humans require large amounts of water to survive during extended emergencies, but relying on bottled water is not the way to do it.

Many brands of bottled water available in grocery stores are expensive, and of unreliable quality. Some commercial brands have been found to be as contaminated as tap water. In fact, a number were found to be bottled municipal tap water. This was the finding of *Consumer Reports* (August 17, 2000).

To make bad matters even worse, fluoride is now being added to some commercial bottled

water brands. The elite corporations call chemical additives to bottled water: Aquaceuticals.

These brands are:

Aquafina (Pepsi)
Artesian Wells
Century Springs
Culligan Bottled Water
Dasani (Coke) CCDA Waters, LLC
DS Waters of America, Inc.
Eureka Water Co.
Famous Ramona Water, Inc.
Kandiyohi Water
Laure
Mayer Bros., Inc.
Mount Olympus Waters, Inc.
Natural Springs Water Group
Nestle Waters North America, Inc.
Oasis Pure Water Factory
Ozarka
Premium Waters, Inc.
Puritan Springs Water
Shenandoah

The effects of Fluoride Exposure are cumulative. This means that small exposures over a period of time does add up. All fluoride exposure should be limited due to the neural and toxic effects. This means to avoid fluoride tooth pastes, mouthwash, and drinking water.

If you plan on bottling your own emergency water, keep in mind that bottled water has a shelf life unless you add chlorine, iodine, citrus extract, or colloidal silver to kill micro organisms. The bottles must be must be sterilized, then stored in a cool and dark place. This keeps algae and other unwanted life forms from blooming. Home bottled water must be rotated (replaced) on a regular basis.

Finding other sources of local water

Surface water is the primary source of drinking water in the United States and Canada. It come from streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. These sources are easily accessible but are vulnerable to overuse, pollution and depletion.

There are very few rivers or lakes in the U.S. which remain pristine and uncontaminated. The primary causes of this are misuse, agricultural runoff, industrial and air pollution.

Water that comes from surface sources must be purified before drinking or cooking. Even mountain lakes, rivers and streams in remote locations are often contaminated by parasites, animal wastes, airborne pollution and heavy metals. Air pollution can travel great distances from the source.

If your home is close to a source of surface water, it can be diverted to where you need it. Water can be pumped via pipes or hoses to where it can be stored and then used.

Shallow wells that adjoin streams, ponds, lakes and rivers can be constructed for a small investment of time, money and materials. The trick is to surround the well casement (made from stone or concrete) with gravel, sand and even homemade charcoal to filter out particulates, organic materials and contaminates. The casement should be capped on top to prevent contamination and sunlight. The cap also prevents children and animals from falling in.

Surface water can be used as is for washing and flush toilets, but must be purified for

drinking and cooking. It can also be used for gardening, if the mineral content is not too high.

If the water source (well, pond or stream) is located at a elevation higher than your home. The water will self-pressurize as it descends. This alleviates the need for a pump and pressure tank in your home water system.

Deep Wells

Second only to surface/municipal water, deep wells are the most common source of potable water in the United States and Canada. A good well is one that produces three or more gallons per minute, and does so year-round. A good producing well is a valuable asset for those determined to attain self reliance.

Deep wells require a substantial initial investment. But if they are set up correctly, in a place with a suitable groundwater or an underground aquifer. After the initial investment, deep wells are relatively inexpensive to run and maintain.

Drilling deep wells is not a job for do-it-yourselfers, as the job requires considerable expertise, and the drilling equipment is prohibitively expensive. Well sites should be located, drilled and set up by professionals

My previous residence's deep well cost \$3,700 to drill, over 20 years ago. It produced adequately until last year, when the water table dropped due to overdevelopment. The well had to be re-drilled at a cost of nearly \$10,000. It is once again producing, at a much greater depth, and in smaller quantities than before.

There are other significant initial expenses when digging a well. They include:

- A submersible electric pump is needed to pump the water up and into a tank or cistern.
- Power cables must be run to the well head to power the pump, unless a solar well pump is being used.
- A PVC pressure pipe needs to be laid from the well head to the storage tank or cistern. The pipe must be buried well below the frost line to avoid freezing.
- The storage tank or cistern needs to be installed and sheltered to keep it from freezing. It should be located close to the house, and preferably at an elevation above to home for gravity flow pressurization.
- If your homestead is on flat land, you will need to have a pressure pump and pressure tank installed to pressurized the water lines.

Putting in a well, storage tanks and complete water system is costly. But by spreading out the cost over a period of twenty years, it is far cheaper than paying local city water bills. Our town's minimum water and sewer rate is \$130 per month, and it goes up with increased use.

Be conscious of animal wastes being generated within the boundaries of your watershed. If your homestead is located on a hill, livestock should be kept below the level of the well and watershed.

Well water should be periodically analyzed for mineral content, heavy metals, bacteria and pathogens such as cysts and protozoans. There are economical home test kits.

Carefully avoid contaminating the ground water within a minimum of 100 feet (or more) from a well head. Avoid using any herbicides, or pesticides, etc. anywhere on your property

Workshops should not be built anywhere near the well head because of the potential of accidents, and spills. Do not leak motor oil and radiator fluids into your watershed. A few ounces of these can contaminate a lot of water. Use common sense and protect your pure water.

Rainwater Catchment - Mankind has collected rainwater for thousands of years. This is a very reliable source of potable water in most areas. It can be used as a primary water source, or for supplementing municipal water

Catchment has provided drinking water for homesteads, farms, towns and even cities with

tens of thousands of inhabitants. Rainwater was the only source of drinking water for inhabitants of Venice, Italy for almost nine hundred years.

“In the 9th century, locals devised a way to collect rain water using town squares as catchment systems. Clay tubs were constructed under each square with a sand filtering system. Channels directed water to a cistern at the center. Squares were paved at a slight slant so rain water would drain through funnels into the tub, which served as the neighborhood ‘well.’” - How waterlogged Venice quenched its thirst by Rick Steves / http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/destinations/italy/ven_water.htm

Here in the Pacific NW we have an abundance of rain, so rainwater harvesting works quite well here, and it is easy to do. Simply direct the water from the roof's gutters through a pre filter (such as Lightman's design), and into holding tanks, a small pond, or an underground cistern.

Catchment systems are also very useful in arid and semiarid areas. The trick is to utilize large areas of roof to collect water from the occasional heavy rain storms, and to have large capacity storage tanks or cisterns.

Many people in the Pacific N.W. use rainwater catchment to water their lawns and gardens. For several years, 65 gallon plastic rain barrels were distributed free-of-charge to island residents to encourage rainwater harvesting and conservation.

As municipal water prices steadily increase, and population levels continue to climb, an increasing number of NW residents are turning to rainwater catchment as their primary source of water. Our county now possesses more home catchment water systems than any other in America. Dozens of luxury homes have been built on our island which rely exclusively on catchment water systems. The county has specific regulations and building codes that govern the design, construction and maintenance of these systems.

Rainwater is excellent for growing vegetables. It is demineralized, having been naturally distilled via evaporation. Most well water contains dissolved minerals such as lime. When these solids are at high levels, the water is not good for gardening, as the vegetables are affected by heavily mineralized water.

Catchment water is ideal as either a primary, or a supplemental water source. Installing a catchment system is the easiest way to insure that there will always be pure water to drink, despite the elite's plans.

Catchment do's and don'ts

If you plan on using roof catchment water for drinking, make sure that the roof is composed of nontoxic material. Tar paper, asphalt, and treated cedar shingles are not appropriate as they leech contaminants into the water. The best roofing material for rainwater catchment systems is the enameled steel roof. Steel roofs do not leech contaminants into the catchment water. They are designed to last for decades, and have the additional benefit of being fireproof, and help block electrical signals.

Rainwater needs to be purified prior to using it for drinking and cooking. This takes two to three levels of filtration/purification. The first level of filtration screens out the larger debris; pine needles, leaves and such. The second level of filtration uses a "roof washer" to divert the first few gallons of waste rainwater away from the water barrel (see Lightman's system above).

The first surge of rainwater contain most of the toxins, bird droppings, etc. and this water is discarded, flowing slowly out of a waste tube at the bottom of the roof washer bucket.

If your rainwater is acidic, it can be ph-neutralized by adding limestone chips to the bucket.

It is best if your catchment roof area is open to the sky, not directly underneath trees. Leaves, debris and sap from trees plug filtering systems and contaminate the water.

The Lightman roof washer (full diagram follows this article) is an efficient, third generation

roof-washer for home catchment systems. It can be easily constructed from inexpensive, recycled materials in a single afternoon. The roof washer screens out organic debris, using an array of plastic dinner plates to help dirt and muck precipitate to the bottom of the bucket, where it slowly runs out as dirty waste water. The pre filtered water is then funneled into water barrels, a tank or cistern for storage.

Before drinking filtered rainwater, it should be further purified using a multistage filter, or by distillation. I use a *British Berkefield Big Berkey™* gravity water filter. The *Big Berkey* purifies two gallons of drinking water at a time into a cylindrical stainless steel dispenser. It does not need to be connected to a water faucet, and needs no electricity to run.



More than the average reader wants to know about water quality

The quality of domestic water varies widely from place to place. The presence of dissolved minerals, heavy metals, turbidity, organic compounds, pathogens, bacteria and viruses must be evaluated, treated and eliminated when they exceed safe levels.

Analyzing and treating water is both an art and a science which goes well beyond the scope of this overview. However, I do want to briefly focus on the treatment, sterilization of drinking water. This topic is of great importance to readers, many of whom will be faced with water quality issues in the near future.

Heat treatment - Boiling water for several minutes will kill all bacteria, pathogens and most viruses. Boiling does nothing to remove heavy metals, dissolved minerals, salts, etc. heat treatment is a good short-term survival technique when municipal water is off-line or becomes contaminated, as occurred throughout the Gulf Coast following hurricane Katrina. To be completely safe boiled water should also be run through a commercial water filter.

Distillation - There are three types of of water distillation systems; evaporative, steam and multistage flash distillation. Each has its list of pros and cons.

Solar stills utilize evaporative distillation, and are easily constructed. The yield of water is relatively small, but building a larger unit can compensate for this limitation. Solar stills do not function at night, or during cloudy periods. They must be thoroughly cleaned often to maintain water purity.

There are hybrid solar distillation units that utilize reflectors or parabolic mirrors to intensify the sunlight. These produce steam like the electric steam distillers. These also do not produce at night or during cloudy days. Their advantage over passive solar stills is that they sterilize the water, and produce larger quantities of drinking water in a short time.

Steam distillation is an excellent method for purifying drinking water. The high temperature kills bacteria, pathogens, cysts and viruses. The evaporative process separates out salts, minerals and organic compounds.

Steam distillation utilizes an electric or gas heating source to generate steam. This steam is then condensed using a cooling coil or a cool angled surface.

Steam distillation does have its limitations, however. It takes a lot of electricity/heat to distill adequate quantities of water. When fuel is expensive or the power grid is down this becomes a problem.

Distillation cannot remove solvents, petroleum byproducts, or volatile compounds. These evaporate along with the steam, and then condense back into the water. The bright side is that steam distillation does remove just about every other contaminate from water. When combined with a carbon filter almost all of the remaining contaminants are removed.

Distilled water tastes flat as oxygen and soluble minerals have been removed. The taste will improve somewhat if you shake it vigorously, or pour it back and forth from container to container to re-oxygenate it. Some people add mineral supplements to their distilled water. These are commercially available at health food stores.

Reverse osmosis - This process forces water through a semi permeable membrane made of dense polymer. The water passes easily through the membrane, but sediment, salts and microorganisms are stopped. These are then flushed away as waste products. This process is utilized in many under-the-counter multistage water purifiers.

Roughly half of commercial desalination plants use reverse osmosis to purify salt water. The other half use multistage flash distillation. Both of these systems require electricity and pressurized water to function.

Chemical treatment

This is the traditional, but antiquated method for treating drinking water. Chlorine, iodine, and hydrogen peroxide are the most commonly used chemicals used to treat water at home and during emergency situations. Water that is chemically treated also retains minute traces of the chemicals long after the process is completed.

Chlorine has been used by municipal treatment plants in America since 1916. It is the most common chemical used by municipal water treatment plants.

Chlorine - When chlorine is added to water, microorganisms and organic compounds become oxidized. This kills the little critters, but also produces toxic byproducts and carcinogenic compounds such as: THMs and halogenated organic compounds.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, water treatment facilities often use cheaper and inferior grades of treatment chemicals. These often contain impurities and trace amounts of other chemicals that find their way into our drinking water.

Chlorine and Iodine both leave a bad taste. This does evaporate within a few hours if left in open containers. Chlorine and Iodine are both easily removed with a carbon water filter.

Clorox bleach is 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl). Household bleach is not our first choice for treating water, but in an emergency situation it is better than nothing. Liquid bleach (such as Clorox) can be used *if* it contains no other active ingredients, scents, or colorings. A gallon of water can be treated by adding eight drops of liquid bleach to a gallon of water. Let the water sit for at least 30 minutes after treatment. Then shake it or pour it from container to container until the bleach taste and smell are gone.

Chlorine can be absorbed through our skin. Chlorine water filters can be installed onto taps and shower heads. These are very effective for removing the chemical. These are inexpensive, and last a very long time before needing to be replaced.

Chlorine will not kill Cryptosporidia. This microorganism must be filtered out using other means.

Iodine

Iodine is marginally superior to chlorine as a water disinfectant. It is not PH sensitive like chlorine, and is effective in smaller doses. The recommended treatment is 8 ppm (parts per

million).

Tincture of iodine is 2% iodine and 2.4% sodium iodide dissolved in 50% ethyl alcohol. This can be used to treat water in a pinch. The dosage is 8 drops per liter of water, which works out roughly to 8 ppm. Let the solution sit for at least 10 minutes after being treated.

Sodium Iodide prevents the uptake of radiation by the thyroid glands, so this is another side benefit of Tincture of Iodine. Commercial Iodide tablets are sold for this reason.

Iodine leaves a nasty taste in treated water. This can be reduced by adding some granulated vitamin C, or a packet of flavored Alacer Emer'gen-C.

Potable Aqua is a commercial iodine treatment product. It contains tetraglycine hydroperiodide. The dosage is one tablet per quart of water. This is used by the military and by recreational campers.

Iodine resin is a component in a number of commercial disposable water filters, and most of the disposable water filter "straws." These are effective, but depend on a constant rate of water flow. The straws become less effective the more they are used, which makes it difficult to know when to stop using one.

Iodine will not kill Cryptosporidia. This microorganism must be filtered out using other means.

Silver - Metallic silver is very effective at killing bacteria, viruses, pathogens, and cysts. It is often used in water filters for this reason. As contaminated water comes in contact with the silver particles, the respiration of the organisms is compromised and they suffocate. My *Big Berkey* water filter has silver added into the ceramic filter media.

There are a number of ways to use silver to purify drinking water. European royalty kept drinking water in silver water pitchers and decanters. Farmers would put silver coins in milk jugs to kill bacteria and keep the milk fresh.

Colloidal silver solution can be added to water. This does an excellent job of killing all microscopic critters within ten minutes. Colloidal silver solution can be easily and inexpensively made at home. Detailed instructions are featured in the coming chapter *A gift of silver*.

There is one side effect from excessive silver, a condition known as argyria. Argyria causes a permanent staining of one's eye whites, gums, and mucus membranes. The incidence of argyria is so rare (two incidences in the past thirty years) that it can be ignored if silver consumption is kept at safe levels. There is a ton of disinfo being spread by the pharmaceutical industries about the toxicity of silver. They continually focus on Paul Karason, also known as the blue man on FOX, MSNBC and even Oprah. Karason developed Argyria after ingesting silver nitrate, not colloidal silver. Regardless, the "victim" has received more press than Michael Jackson's missing nose.

It is my opinion that colloidal silver is safe to use, as long as basic safeguards are followed: used a reputable brand of colloidal silver, or make your own; follow recommended doses; and gargle the elixir instead of swallowing it.

Keep in mind that many FDA approved pharmaceuticals cause side effects far worse for the user than that of colloidal silver:

- * Crusting, or oozing of your eyes or eyelids
- * Swollen, black, or "hairy" tongue
- * Changes in the shape or location of body fat
- * Decrease in testicle size
- * Sores or swelling in your rectal or genital area
- * Blue lips or fingernails
- * Purple spots on the skin
- * White patches or sores inside your mouth or on your lips

- * Irregular back-and- forth movements of the eyes
 - * Enlarged breasts in males.
 - * Unusual risk-taking behavior, no fear of danger
 - * Extreme Fear
 - * Hallucinations, fainting, coma
 - * Fussiness, irritability, crying for an hour or longer
 - * Paralysis
 - * Thoracic Hematoma (bleeding into the chest)
 - * A blood clot in the lung
 - * Liver damage
 - * Kidney damage
 - * A lump in your breast.
 - * Decreased bone marrow function
 - * Congestive heart failure
 - * Shingles
 - * Nerve pain lasting for several weeks or months
 - * Bleeding that will not stop
 - * Coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- from <http://www.healthmad.com/Medicine/Prescription-Drugs.95408>

Hydrogen Peroxide - If you have neither Colloidal silver, chlorine or iodine, hydrogen peroxide can be used to treat drinking water. Experts recommend 1.5 - 2% solution, and let it sit for at least thirty minutes. If it fizzes on the way down, it isn't done yet!

Water filtration systems that require electricity to function

Ultraviolet Light - UV light is sometimes used to sterilize drinking water. It effectively kills most pathogens, but some of the little buggers are more sensitive to UV light than others. The least sensitive pathogens are protozoan cysts and Giardia. These will not be destroyed by most commercial UV water treatment units. For this reason UV treatment is usually paired with some other kind of mechanical filter to remove sediments and pathogens.

Ozone treatment - Ozone purification is used extensively in Europe for purifying water. Ozone molecules are made up of 3 atoms of oxygen, as compared with the two in H₂O. Ozone is created by exposing air (oxygen) to a high voltage electric arc. This is why we smell ozone after an electric storm.

Ozone is much more effective than chlorine as a disinfectant, and leaves no residual byproducts (such as trihalomethanes). The down side is that ozone quickly breaks down into O₂, with a half life of 120 minutes in distilled water at 20 degrees Centigrade. So it doesn't continue retain any residual antibiotic qualities, and can become re-infected. Ozone also breaks down organic matter, giving microorganisms increased access to food and energy to flourish.

Distillation - Water distillation and multistage flash distillation both require large amounts of electricity, propane or natural gas to produce. The exception to this rule are solar stills, which use sunlight as an energy source.

Desalination - A large percentage of mankind lives in coastal areas, where fresh water is often scarce due to saltwater intrusion into local wells. Because of this desalination plants are becoming widespread, and the cost of desalination is rapidly decreasing and these plants are now common in coastal areas, in Asia and the Middle East. There are two kinds of desalination systems. multistage Flash Distillation and Reverse Osmosis. Both use electricity to operate.

Water purification systems overview

There are literally hundreds of consumer grade water purification systems available on the market: portables, water pitchers, faucet, under sink, gravity, and whole house systems.

Portable - Portable water filters come in a variety of designs, choice of filtering media, size and price. These are primarily used by backpackers, but are perfect for including in 72 hour emergency kits. The best selling brands are made by PUR and Katadyn.

Most portable filters use steel or fiber pre-filters to remove suspended solids, a ceramic element to filter out particles and critters down to .5-1.0 microns, and a carbon block to remove chlorine and just about anything else the first two don't. The ceramic elements can be refreshed over and over again by cleaning their surfaces with a green scrubby pad.

Most portable filter designs use a hand pump to force the water through the filter. Others (such as the Katadyn drip filter) employ gravity to slowly filter the water. Still others use siphon hoses that feed directly from a stream or other water source. Backpacker magazine has a good camping water filter review web site: http://www.thebackpacker.com/gear/water_filters/

Kitchen water filters - These include water pitcher, tabletop dispensers, faucet mount and under the sink filter designs. The most popular of these are the *PUR Ultimate Pitcher*, *GE SmartWater Faucet Mount* and *PUR Ultimate Faucet Mount* models.

Water pitcher filters are quite convenient. They are the most inexpensive and popular kitchen filter design (but not the most efficient). The pitcher top is filled with tap water, which slowly drips through the filter cartridge into the pitcher below. The process takes 20-40 minutes.

Pitcher cartridges need to be replaced after 20-40 gallons, and cost between \$7 and \$9. But these can be refilled at home with activated charcoal for under a dollar each. Refilling the cartridges is a good idea, considering that PUR filters have been found to add fluoride to the water they are supposed to be purifying.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-refill-a-disposable-Brita-brand-water-pit/>

Table top dispensers - work in the same way as the water pitchers, but have a greater storage capacity and cartridge life. They are a bit more economical than water pitcher filters at cents-per-gallon. They last longer, and hold quite a bit more water than the pitchers. So you don't have to refill them as often. The table top filter cartridges cost a dollar or two more than the pitcher cartridges (and can also be refilled at home).

Faucet mount filters - are the second most popular kitchen design because of their convenience and ease of use. When you want filtered water for drinking or cooking, you press a bypass button and the water is channeled through the filter. The rate is somewhat slow, but you can fill a water pitcher in couple of minutes. Faucet mount filter cartridges supply 150-250 gallons of water (depending on water quality) before needing to be replaced. They cost between \$15-20 depending on the brand. Faucet mount water filters are easily installed

Under sink water filters - are probable the best choice for most people. These are multistage filtration systems that use between two and four inline filters. In a four filter system the first cartridge is a fiber pre filter for removing rust and sediment. The second cartridge is usually a much finer particle filter, the third filter is typically a carbon filter which removes micro organisms, organic chemicals and chlorine, the fourth filter is a ceramic filter and is often silver impregnated. Some under-sink systems use reverse osmosis for the final stage of purification.

Under sink models usually have a separate dispenser tap installed next to the sink's faucet. This is very convenient, but requires a hole to be drilled in the counter top. Many sink models

come with the correct dispenser hole already in position.

Under sink filters such as the *Sears/Kenmore Under sink Dual* do an excellent job of providing high quality drinking water at a low price per gallon. The down side in that they are difficult to install, requiring plumbing tools and skills, or an actual plumber.

Whole House filtration systems - For the purist, whole house filtration systems are hard to beat. The system is installed inline, directly on the water main. It provides filtered water for drinking, bathing, cooking, laundry and dishwashers through all of the home's water taps. There is often a bypass switch allowing the option of filtered or unfiltered water, when regular tap water is all you need (for washing your car and such). This helps to extend the life of the replacement cartridges.

Whole house filtering systems have a faster flow rate, and clog less than other systems. These systems definitely require a plumber to install. The most popular whole house filter is the *Sears/Kenmore 38440*.

Final words on water filtration systems

When deciding on the purchase water filtration system, consider all of the various options carefully. Do your homework before buying. *Consumer Reports* evaluates the most popular brands every couple of years, so they are a good resource. *Consumer Search* is also a good online resource: http://www.consumersearch.com/www/kitchen/water_filters/.

I recommend water filtration systems that do not require electricity to operate. In the event of power outages, you will still have pure water. I also recommend filter cartridges that are impregnated with silver. This not only kills all bacteria, viruses and cysts, but also keeps bacteria from growing inside the filter's warm and moist environment.

Not to harp on this product, but... the *Big Berkey* design is over 140 years old, and is the filter of choice for the International Red Cross, Unicef, U.S. and British Embassies and the British Royal Family.

The *Big Berkey* is a stainless steel gravity feed filter that purifies two gallons in under an hour. The top and bottom halves nest inside one another other for easy transportation. The *BB* uses Super Sterasyl Ceramic "Candles" to purify the water, or the new, vastly improved black cartridges. Both are silver impregnated, soft ceramic cartridges on the outside, and are filled with activated carbon on the inside. The black ones are supposed to be "rechargeable."

The *BB* can filter 31 gallons of water per day. The ceramic candles can be cleaned again and again, which refreshes the rate of flow and extends the life of the cartridges.

A new and inexpensive personal water filter is about to hit the shelves that should be included in every emergency preparedness kit. It is called the *LifeStraw*TM. This 3.4-ounce \$5 marvel can filter up to 185 gallons of water. Two of the LifeStraws would supply drinking water for one person for a full year. These little marvels are available from www.lifestraw.com

Water self-reliance - the plan

It is in our best interest to secure access to pure water resources. This helps to insure our survival, protects us from the elite's water privatization schemes, and it also supports personal and community self-reliance. Water self-reliance can be accomplished in a variety of ways. If one is on a tight budget, it may mean storing commercial bottled water, or water from a coin-op filtration system. It might also mean buying a water filtration system like the Big Berkey.

If you are fortunate to have access to an artesian spring, a mountain stream, a good well, pond, lake, or other source of pure water, then you are well (no pun intended) on your way to being water independent.

Others may join a community water cooperative. Many rural neighborhoods have these.

The rest of us need to be clever in finding a good source of water, then secure rights to its

use. It is, of course, best if one actually owns the property that the water is located on. But many other options are available for those who are inventive, and are willing to negotiate their own water rights.

The importance of water when buying a place in the country.

When shopping for your place in the country, plentiful pure water is a primary necessity. A paradise without a reliable source of water may look nice, but it is virtually uninhabitable. You cannot garden, or even survive there for very long.

When searching for homestead property. Consider all aspects of water availability and quality. Does the property have an existing well? If so, how much water does it produce per minute? Is it a community or shared well? Can the well be owner-dug or drilled? Is there a commercial well drilling company in the area?

If there is no well, does the property have groundwater or an aquifer that would support one? Is it drinkable as is, or does it need filtration? Is there surface water such as a pond or stream that could be developed?

Is water catchment a possibility?

Is it a good location for rainwater catchment? Is it legal to collect rainwater in your state? What is the annual precipitation? Is the roof material conducive to catchment, or will it leech contaminants into the water? Are there trees overhanging the roof? If so, will they contaminate the water?

Research your water rights. Collect well water samples when evaluating the property. Have them tested for quality. If the water tests out as potable, the next step is to find out who and what is upstream, and who also hares your source.

Make sure that there is no obvious contamination to your watershed. Cow pastures may be scenic, but they are lethal to your water quality due of the growth hormones and waste products. Do your homework thoroughly. Don't just accept the blather of the real estate agent.

Never dig wells near sewage treatment plants, manufacturing areas, industrial parks, or the like. Use common sense... then get the samples tested.

Whatever your source of drinking water, it should be tested regularly. If the results show high levels of solids, impurities, etc., choose a filtration system that effectively removes those things. A good, well-maintained filtration system does provides high-quality drinking water.

Final words on water

It is vitally important in today's increasingly thirsty world to secure access to local drinking water resources. This is a top priority, and has long-range social, political, and of course health implications.

The topic of pure water is highly complex and politically charged. Powerful international interests have targeted Earth's remaining public pure water resources for privatization, development, and plunder. This topic deserves to be the subject of whole volumes, and goes far beyond the scope of this article.* But there are excellent resources available to help readers further investigate this topic: A Google search will supply numerous web sites devoted to water treatment, home filtration system designs, rainwater catchment, water law and regulations, etc.

Securing one's access to pure water is of paramount importance, as multinationals like Bechtel are striving to dominate the markets and control pure water supplies.

When we gain control of our own water systems, our self-reliance and sustainability is enhanced. With this in mind, it makes sense for us to do what is necessary to preserve and protect this vital resource, and strive to become water independent.

To rely exclusively on municipal water is foolhardy in the light of the revelations detailed in this chapter. Upgrading one's existing system, creating a catchment backup system, or designing

and building an independent water system should be a top priority for those serious about increasing their levels of self-reliance and sustainability, and preserving their god-given freedoms.

* *The Water Barons: A Handful of Corporations Seek to Privatize the World's Water*

source: Center of Public Integrity: <http://projects.publicintegrity.org/water/> /
<http://www.freshwater.net/TheWaterBarons.htm>

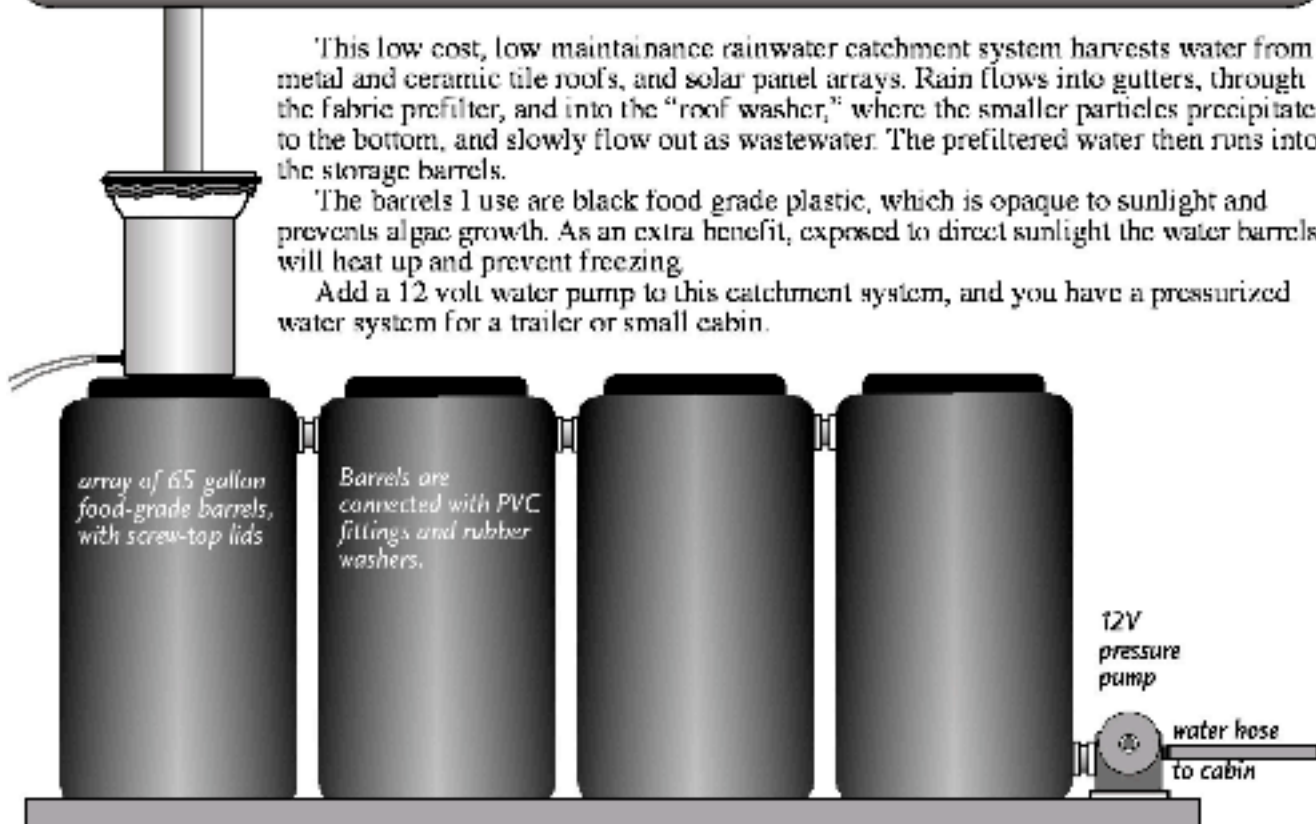
Lightman's Roof Washer and Catchment System are on the next page:

Lightman's - Rainwater Catchment System

This low cost, low maintenance rainwater catchment system harvests water from metal and ceramic tile roofs, and solar panel arrays. Rain flows into gutters, through the fabric prefilter, and into the "roof washer," where the smaller particles precipitate to the bottom, and slowly flow out as wastewater. The prefiltered water then runs into the storage barrels.

The barrels I use are black food grade plastic, which is opaque to sunlight and prevents algae growth. As an extra benefit, exposed to direct sunlight the water barrels will heat up and prevent freezing.

Add a 12 volt water pump to this catchment system, and you have a pressurized water system for a trailer or small cabin.



Lightman's "roof washer" prefilter

An easy-to-make prefilter for catchment systems.

This system filters out dirt and debris from roof water. It is not meant to provide pure drinking water, but to remove the most debris, dirt and dust. A good water filter must also be used to provide pure drinking water from catchment sources.

Water flows through a fabric prefilter, which is stretched over a steel mixing bowl. The fabric swatches are held in place by an elastic band. The water then flows into a chamber with baffles to

Parts & Supplies

- Stainless steel mixing bowl
- 1 5 gallon food grade plastic bucket
- four plastic lids 1" smaller than diameter of bucket.
- plywood disc/base (1" larger diameter than rain barrel opening).
- assorted salvaged plumbing parts and fittings
- fabric swatches of different mesh sizes to make prefilter (door screen material, cheesecloth, fine polyester fabric)

Tools: hacksaw, saber saw, electric drill and drillbits, round file, hot glue gun

