

I believe that I will never drink water that is completely “clean.” I do not know where the water molecule that I drink has been on its journey. Without knowing the whole history of this water, it is hard to say if it is truly “clean” regardless of what processes and cleansing it has been through. Water can jump between states of matter in a matter of minutes and with that can take a trip around the world in just seven days time.

I believe that it is counterintuitive to think that water can be 100% clean. We call water that goes into our drinking sources **groundwater**. Groundwater, meaning that it flows through the dirt and soil. We count on the dirt to filter the water so we can drink it and then use that same water to wash the dirt off of our food. This dirt wash-off water then goes into a sewer to mix with a bunch of other junk before it goes to a smelly wastewater treatment plant. At the wastewater plant, the dirt water gets tossed around with some chemicals that are supposed to clean and disinfect it. It then flows through miles of pipeline just to reach our homes where it comes out with an odd odor that we feel the need to filter. This “city” water goes through a PUR or Brita filter that says it will remove “Lead, Cryptosporidium and Giardia, TTHM's and VOC.” I have an engineering degree so I know what most of that stuff is, but I feel bad for my friends that have never heard of it. If water *might* have all that stuff in it, do I really need to be drinking it in the first place, filtered or not.

If you are from the country as I am, you probably grew up on well water. You rave about how much better it is than city water. Getting water natural water from 300 feet down in the Earth that has been cleaned by the dirt and soil that I mentioned earlier has got to be cleaner and safer than processed water right? It may be if you take out the fact that that dirt is likely contaminated with fertilizers and pesticides put there by runoff water.

Even if I come to terms with the fact that the water I’m drinking is probably as clean as it is going to get, I know I’ve pissed in my fair share of creeks in the woods. That thought alone makes me feel a little bad knowing that I’ve messed up someone else’s drinking water. I apologize in advance even though I know I’ll never drink completely clean water and neither will you.