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STERIPEN ULTRAVIOLET WATER PURIFIER

From both childhood and military experiences around the world I learned more people become ill or even die from consuming apparently “clean” water than do from drinking visibly turbid water. If it’s turbid and skanky, folks will presume it’s contaminated and treat it as such. If it looks and smells okay — especially if it’s so-called “bottled water” — people trust it, often to their chagrin. Too, most folks don’t know the difference between water pump filters and water filter purifiers.

Generally, filters remove particulates and odors, and purifiers stop most microbes. Basically, they work by mechanically separating the nasty little swimmers from the water, and often require additional chemical treatment to get the job done. Ultraviolet light takes a different and more effective angle of attack: it scrambles the DNA of microbes, so they can neither make you ill nor reproduce. Until recently, ultraviolet treatment devices were too big and heavy for convenient portability — and ‘way too expensive! Then came *SteriPEN*.



There are a handful of models available — ours is the *Journey*; MSRP \$129.95. At five ounces and 7.3” long, it’s one-quarter the weight and bulk of my old purifier, plus there’s no pumping, clogging, lubricating or chemical odor. Two CR123 batteries will typically treat 50 liters, and the replaceable UV lamp lasts for about 2,500 gallons. Here’s the drill: Take a one-liter container of water — the capacity of a standard Nalgene bottle — and press the *Journey*’s single button once (for a half-liter/16 ounces, press twice). Stick the lamp end of the *Journey* into the container, and when the two water-sensor prongs detect water, the lamp and a count-down timer kick in. Stir throughout the countdown, keeping the water sensors submerged. Typically, one treatment kills 99.999-percent of bacteria, 99.99-percent of viruses and 99.9-percent of protozoa. Not bad, huh?

A half-liter takes 48 seconds; one liter takes 90, and the LCD display not only tells you when you’re done, but reveals lamp and battery status. Some *SteriPEN* kits include a pre-filter for mucky, turbid water, and even a solar charger. For most individual water-purification needs, *SteriPEN* represents a quantum leap in effectiveness and convenience. Imagine one mid-vacation case of raging diarrhea, and then go to www.steripen.com.

SteriPEN
safe drinking water anywhere