



UtahOutside.com

June 30, 2010

Featuring: The AdventurerOpti

URL :<http://www.utahoutside.com/?p=2593>

On long backpack trips, clean drinking water is vital. Nobody wants to carry heavy water from home in the pack, but water from streams and lakes can be infected with microscopic bacteria that will ruin the trip (and make you dig a bunch of holes in the woods.) There are several options available for filtering water, like purification tablets and pump-style filters. But tablets make the water taste bad and filters can clog and be heavy when weight is a concern. Enter the SteriPEN Adventurer Opti as a new way to clean questionable water using UV light.

The SteriPEN Adventurer Opti is basically a wand that emits UV light that kills harmful bugs like giardia, cryptosporidium, bacteria and viruses. Think of it as a mini-lightsaber against water dwelling nasties. An optical eye located in the wand can detect when it is submerged in water, which activates the UV light.

As soon as the wand is submerged into a water-filled container and light is emitted, all the bacteria and viruses are killed within seconds. Swirling the wand in the water ensures that all the liquid gets zapped. According to the company, the Opti purifies 0.5 L (16 oz.) in 48 seconds and 1.0L (32 oz.) in just 90 seconds. The UV lamp provides up to 8,000 one-liter treatments.

I'd say that the SteriPEN Adventurer Opti is a neat little guy that is essential gear for backpackers looking for an ultralight way to purify water. It won't replace standard purifiers that both sterilize and filter dirty water, but if the hiking route has ample, clear water in lakes and streams, and you're carrying a clear, wide-mouth bottle, then the SteriPEN is a winner.

