



Chicago Bottled Water Tax Guide

As of January 1, 2008 the City of Chicago has enacted the Chicago Bottled Water Tax. The tax rate is \$0.05 per bottle of water. The definitions and tax imposed sections of this new ordinance read as follows:

"3-43-020 Definitions. *'Bottled water' means all water which is sealed in bottles offered for sale for human consumption. The term does not include any beverage defined as a 'soft drink' under Section 3-45-020 of the Chicago Soft Drink Tax Ordinance, Chapter 3-45 of this Code.*"

"3-43-030 Tax imposed. *A tax is hereby imposed on the retail sale of bottled water in the City. This tax shall be paid by the purchaser, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed to impose a tax on the occupation of retail or wholesale bottled water dealer. The tax shall be levied at the rate of \$0.05 per bottle."*

This guide is intended to help identify the types of bottled water that are taxable for the Chicago Bottled Water Tax.

Taxable Products

1. In general, all brands of non carbonated bottled water intended for human consumption.

Non-Taxable Examples

1. Any beverage that qualifies as a "Soft Drink" per the Chicago Soft Drink Tax ordinance.
2. Pedialyte
3. Gatorade
4. Vitamin Water
5. Sobe Life Water
6. Propel Fitness Water
7. Water Joe
8. Perrier, Seltzer Water, Club Soda or Tonic Water
9. Mineral water ([as defined by the FDA](#))
10. Distilled water
11. Other products similar to those listed above due to carbonation and/or other features such as flavoring, vitamins, caffeine, or nutritional additives.
12. Water provided by home or business water delivery services, where the water is delivered in a reusable container that is not sold with the water.

The list above is not considered all inclusive and should there be a category of water product or specific water product that is not on the list and for which the examples above do not assist you in determining taxability, please contact the Chicago Department of Revenue at (312)747-1209.