Taste and odor

Water can dissolve many different substances, giving it varying tastes and odors. [Humans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humans) and other animals have developed senses that enable them to evaluate the [potability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drinking_water" \o "Drinking water) of water by avoiding water that is too salty or [putrid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Putrid). The taste of [spring water](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_water) and [mineral water](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mineral_water), often advertised in marketing of consumer products, derives from the minerals dissolved in it. However, pure H2O is tasteless and odorless. The advertised purity of spring and mineral water refers to absence of [toxins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxin), [pollutants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollutant) and [microbes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microorganism), not the absence of naturally occurring minerals.

