The CamelBak® Better Bottle™ FAQ's

1. What is BPA?

Bisphenol-A is an ingredient used to make polycarbonate. In recent months, there has been increasing consumer demand for a bottle that is not made with Bisphenol-A (BPA), and CamelBak is proud to introduce BPA-free bottles with the same great properties customers have come to expect from polycarbonate: vibrant color, clarity, durability, dishwasher-safe, and with no residual taste. As of the end of April 2008, the entire CamelBak bottle line will be available in BPA-Free materials in North America.

2. What is your BPA-free Better Bottle™ made from?

The CamelBak Better Bottle™ line is made from a new copolyester polymer called Tritan™, made by Eastman. It offers the same great qualities that we have come to expect from polycarbonate bottles and is 100% BPA-Free. The BPA-Free CamelBak Better Bottle™ is now shipping to retail stores.

The Better Bottle Caps are made of Polypropylene – for toughness and sealing performance

The Big Bite™ Valve is made of Medical-Grade Silicone – for long life and taste-free performance

3. Why did you change from polycarbonate to this new Tritan™ material?

Customers have asked for a BPA-free alternative to polycarbonate. CamelBak has a long history of developing innovative products by listening to our customers and we have been committed to finding a BPA-free alternative to polycarbonate (PC). After exclusive research and material trials, CamelBak was the first to develop and deliver Tritan to market.

4. Does this new BPA-free Better Bottle leach any chemicals? What type of safety testing has been done on the new Bottle?

After rigorous 3rd party testing of the BPA-free Better Bottle, no harmful chemicals have been detected to come in contact with, or leach into food/beverage surfaces. A FCN (Food Contact Substance Notification) notice #729 declared that Tritan is safe and meets all EPA and FDA guidelines for material that is to come in repeated contact with food. In addition, we have verified that all materials used in the bottle including Tritan meet the stringent guidelines set by California Proposition 65. Extraction tests were completed by independent 3rd party researchers, verifying that the new material meets all requirements as set forth by organizations such as:

FDA food safety standards
European Community food safety standards
Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare
California Prop 65

5. How do I know if my bottle is BPA-Free?

The BPA-Free logo will be printed on the side of the CamelBak Better Bottle if it is a BPA-Free version. In the store, the BPA-Free bottles will display a large BPA-Free sticker.

6. I have an older CamelBak Bottle that's not BPA-Free. What is it made from?

The original CamelBak Better Bottle with Bite Valve is made from polycarbonate.
The cap is made of:

a. Polypropylene – for toughness and sealing performance
b. Thermoplastic elastomer (on the outside of the Better Bottle with Bite Valve Cap) – for a comfortable grip

The bite valve is made of Medical-Grade Silicone – for long life and taste-free performance

7. Is polycarbonate safe?

CamelBak has monitored scientific research concerning the safety of products that include BPA. Based on a broad range of scientific findings, we firmly believe in the safety of our products. We are not recalling our polycarbonate bottles.

While there is not consensus on the issues surrounding BPA, recent comprehensive reviews of polycarbonate and BPA have concluded that estimated daily exposure to BPA poses no known safety risk. While Health Canada has recently issued a report to the contrary, the findings from tests by the following organizations indicate that BPA exposure does not pose a safety risk:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
The Harvard Center for Risk Analysis
The American Council on Science & Safety
Many regulatory bodies worldwide, including the European Commission Scientific Committee on Food, the United Kingdom Food Standards Agency, and the Japan Ministry for Health, Labor, & Welfare.

8. What are phthalates (pronounced Thal-ates)?

Phthalates are a component added to some plastics to make them soft and pliable. None of CamelBak's bottles have ever contained phthalates.

9. Do CamelBak reservoirs contain BPA?

No, there is no BPA in any component of CamelBak reservoirs.

10. What does this #7 symbol mean?

The number code inside a recycling symbol is a resin identification code, used primarily by those in the waste stream management industry. It is not a measure of safety, but indicates what an item is made from so that recycling plants know how to categorize and recycle it. BPA exists only in ***polycarbonate #7 bottles***, but not in all #7 bottles, despite a great deal of misinformation in the media and public perception. ***It is possible that a #7 bottle does not contain any BPA at all.***

Recycling codes 1-6 refer to specific materials, while #7 is a miscellaneous category that simply signifies that a product does not fall into the categories 1-6.

#7, or “other” plastics are often made of multiple resins or layers of different types of plastics. These may include microwavable packages, snack bags and industrial plastics. If a product does not have a recycle symbol on it, it is automatically categorized as #7 or “other.”

11. Your BPA-Free Better Bottle with Classic Cap does not have a recycle symbol on it. Why not?

The primary reason is that our bottle is meant to be re-used, not recycled. But also, we’ve discovered that there are more myths and misinformation about #7 plastics than truth. One of these misperceptions is that many people associate the #7 recycling symbol with polycarbonate. In order to differentiate our new BPA-free Better Bottle from our polycarbonate version, we chose to remove the symbol, and hopefully reduce confusion.. The new Tritan™ bottle is still considered “other” and will be categorized with #7 plastics but it is completely BPA-Free.