GEARJUNKIE

by Stephen Regenold August 27, 2012

Trend: Reusable Glass Water Bottles for Outdoors

Polycarbonate water bottle were standard in the outdoors for years. Then came a chemical scare around 2005 with the knowledge that a potentially harmful compound called bisphenol-A, or BPA, was present in the plastic.

Next, metal bottles came onto the scene. Stainless steel vessels from a slew of manufacturers became default for hikers and backpackers and everyday drinkers looking for a "pure" water-toting solution.

This year, glass is in the spotlight. The perceived clean sweep of silica as a bottle material is being marketed by niche outfits as well as major players like CamelBak Products.

Reusable glass vessels — not throw-away or recyclable bottles — offer a clean look and a material that can keep water fresh. They are easy to sanitize in a dishwasher or by hand in a sink.

But glass bottles can shatter and crack if dropped outside. The companies who market to outdoors users know this and offer a few solutions. (See the PURE bottle above, which employs a thin film over its glass.)

Another protective concept, CamelBak adds a removable silicone sleeve on its Eddy Glass bottle, which comes to market next month. The sleeve gives grip and a thin, bump-absorbing cover.

CamelBak will sell the 25-ounce capacity bottle for $25 when it comes to market next month. Its glass is durable — think milk jug versus a drinking glass, but not as heavy. They are made in a French factory that's one of the world's largest producers of glass food containers, the company cites.

Eddy Glass bottle from CamelBak comes with silicone sleeve for protection and grip