

**Categorie Premio**      **Accessibilità**      **Sostenibilità**      **Qualità della vita**

**Product Name**      Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin

**Designer**      Eric Olsen

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**Description of innovation social values**

- product category
- formal and functional features
- problems solved by innovation
  - user
  - field of application

Clean drinking water is fundamental to public health, yet a significant portion of the world's population does not have access to a safe source of water. The World Health Organization estimates over 1.5 million deaths per year are directly attributable to waterborne pathogens imbibed in unsafe drinking water. The Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin project addresses the problem of unsafe drinking water by imagining the possibility of a flexible and intuitive vessel for containing, carrying, and purifying water.

The Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin implicates the current paradigm of water infrastructure in developing urban and rural regions around the world. In many places, individuals (especially women) must travel up to four hours to a safe source of drinking water. The Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin is lightweight, expandable and comfortable to wear, allowing a greater volume of water to be carried when compared to traditional vessels. Because it is also a container for disinfecting water, one need not travel as far to find a safe source of water. As a result, the Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin effectively reduces the amount of time and energy people must devote to securing clean drinking water.

**Description of technical features**

- operations
- technology

The Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin is fabricated to be flexible and robust. Layers of rubberized nylon and high performance LDPE are radio-frequency welded to produce durable, water-tight cells. The cellular construction of the Tarpaulin, morphologically inspired by the saguaro cactus, is designed to conform to the body and varied volumes of water. The digitally designed pattern for the Solar Water Disinfecting Tarpaulin lends itself to mass variation and is designed to be easily appropriated for a variety of situations: from carrying water to creating a sun shade; from urban rooftops to rural huts.

**Dimensions**

Varies (approximately 150cm x 225cm x 5cm when deployed)

**Materials**

Transparent recycled low-density polyethylene and waterproof rip-stop nylon fabric.

**Certifications**

pending

**Benefits for environment**

Easily recyclable and repairable using low-tech heat welding techniques.

**Benefits for human being**

Provides a low-tech solution for disinfecting and transporting water.