

This dripless water bottle with a handy built-in pocket makes for a great trail partner

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We stay hydrated while walking on the Loantaka Trail. The best feature of this bottle, besides its sharable 24-oz capacity, is the one-handed operation for drinking. The flip-up carabineer clip makes a great carry handle too - much easier and more pleasant than gripping a sweaty bottle.

For various medical reasons I've spent much of the past few months out on the trails on my feet rather than on my bike, and instead of wearing my favorite long-distance hydro pack I've been taking the **Contigo Autoseal Kangaroo Water Bottle** with me.

The Kangaroo gets its name from the handy compartment built into the side of the bottle so you can carry "keys, ID, money, a train pass or other small items" with you. I found that while the small pocket is indeed a handy place to stash some emergency cash, the keys I would normally have with me on an outing do not fit as the car key is attached to a thick electronic fob.

Generally I'm walking in pants or shorts that have a multitude of pockets and so keep my small items there anyway, but it's nice to have the bottle storage area available.

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The best feature of the Kangaroo, besides its sharable 24-oz capacity, is the one-handed operation for drinking. Flip the spout cover up with your thumb and press the Autoseal button in the back with your index finger to open and drink. When you let go of the button, it seals shut with absolutely no dripping, and closing the spout cover keeps the area your lips touch safe from any debris out on the trail.



Contigo Autoseal
Kangaroo Water Bottle

The flip-up carabineer clip makes a great carry handle too – much easier and more pleasant than gripping a sweaty bottle. I have not used it to clip to anything yet, but I can imagine that it would be handy if you had a regular day-pack on a longer hike or for you moms with strollers and diaper bags.

The plastic bottle is BPA free, stain and odor resistant, with an opening wide enough for dropping in some ice cubes on warmer days, and is easy to rinse out. The cap mechanism is a bit tricky to clean, but as I have used it for water only, I haven't worried about it too much. If you sip juice or dairy-based drinks out of it, you'll want to take extra care to make sure that you don't end up with something nasty stuck in there.

The bottle fits easily into my car cup holder for the drive out to the trail, but is too large for a bike bottle cage. If that is your application, you're better off sticking to your standard squeeze bottle.

Based on my experience with the Kangaroo and its extremely effective seal (and easy one-handed operation), I'll be putting the **Contigo stainless steel insulated travel mug** on my Christmas wish list – in that sexy Christmas red, please!



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