

[The Times](#)

September 24, 2009

## **Etiquette dilemma: how one should drink from a fountain?**

By Will Pavia

How should one drink from a fountain? The question was troubling arbiters of etiquette yesterday as they prepared for a new era of public drinking.

The rules that pertain to the table cannot be transferred easily to a nozzle in the street. A degree of slurping is permitted, much as one might be permitted to wear jeans to the theatre, but gargling is a point of contention. As for spitting: don't.

... In the intervening years it has been the patrons of gymnasiums who have continued to use common water fountains. Keva Silversmith, who keeps a blog on etiquette in gymnasiums, has compiled a list of "[Things Not To Do At A Gym Water Fountain](#)." He was concerned about spitting, nose-blowing, and general fountain "hogging." He said yesterday: "Gyms are like the wild west of social etiquette. It's a total free for all."

Patrons of public fountains are advised to follow Gladstone, rather than the gym bunnies, although Ms Bryant believes that it may be impractical always to carry a cup ...