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pH Levels Pertaining to Distilled or Purified Water:

The distillation or purification process isolates pure water from its contaminants.

When pure water has not been exposed to air, the pH is seven. During the sample collection process or as the water is stored in bottles that contain air, the components in the air can be dissolved in the water. Carbon dioxide in the air readily dissolves in water and may cause the pH to drop. Therefore, it is not unusual for the laboratory measured pH to be lower than the field pH and possibly fall below the standard range of 6.5 to 8.5.

Water that has not been distilled or purified typically contains various minerals and other harmless chemicals which may act as a base and buffer the reaction of the carbon dioxide so it is less likely that there will be a drastic drop in the pH level.
