



Did you know . . .

NSF International led the development of the American National Standards for all chemicals used to treat drinking water and materials/products coming into contact with drinking water. This has led to more than 10,000 treatment products being certified!

How to Select Water Treatment Products

There are many reasons that people decide to treat their drinking water. Use the information below to assess your water quality to ensure the product you choose meets your needs.

Where to Start

One goal people frequently have is to remove all contaminants from their drinking water. Unfortunately, there is not one system that achieves this goal. What you can do is select the treatment product that is best suited for your needs, and here is where to start!

Well Water

If you have a well for your drinking water, you may want to consider having your water tested to determine what contaminants, if any, are present in your water. This will serve as a guide in selecting your water treatment product. You may contact the local health department or a local university that can provide you with private well testing.

City Water

In the U.S. and some cities in Canada you can obtain a copy of the Annual Water Quality Report from your water provider. Sometimes this is known as a Consumer Confidence Report. It provides you with the names and levels of regulated contaminants detected in your water system.

After you have your report from either a private laboratory or the water provider, the first step is to look at the report and determine which of the contaminants listed on your report are of concern to

you in your drinking water.

Types of Water Treatment Products

The next step is to determine what type of filter or treatment system would be most effective in addressing your concerns. There are various kinds of treatment products to choose from such as:

- Pour-through pitchers
- Filters attached to a sink faucet
- Countertop filters plumbed into the kitchen sink
- Whole-house systems (point of entry)

Check out our Contaminant Reduction Claims Guide for a list of contaminants and additives commonly found in drinking water, and which types of treatment products are most effective for removing them.

Water treatment products, systems and filters certified by NSF International undergo testing to ensure the safety of their materials and performance to ensure they remove specific contaminants and chemicals of concern. You can search products by contaminant, technology type, brand name or product type on our product listings search page.

NSF's Consumer Information Specialist is also available to help navigate this process at info@nsf.org or +1 734.418.6612.

For more tips on the water treatment systems, visit



NSF's Live Safer Home Water Treatment Systems:

<http://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/health-and-safety-tips/water-quality-treatment-tips/standards-for-water-treatment-systems> .