



Water Filters

Clean drinking water is important in maintaining optimal health for both you and your family. Water filtering systems are a growing issue. In 1993, over 100 people died from cryptosporidium contaminated water in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Seven deaths from *E.coli* tainted water occurred in Walkerton, Ontario in 2000. Our tap water is affected by acid rain, pesticides, heavy metals and toxic waste which can be very dangerous to your health. Filtering and purifying our water supply has become a priority to many. There are many water filters available on the market today, whether it is a home system for the faucet, refrigerator or shower, it is important to be familiar with the product you are purchasing. Make sure you understand what the filtering system is capable of prior to making a purchase. One major benefit regarding the water filters is that the vast majority have to follow strict guidelines. The Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada closely monitor this industry far more closely than the bottled water industry. In fact there are no federal filtration or disinfection requirements related to bottled water companies.

When water passes through a water filter, a filter media absorbs and screens for particles. There are a wide range of water filters, purifiers, and methods of water purification available on the market today. There is no single filter or treatment that will eliminate 100% of every contaminant from your water. Many technologies target only a specific type of contaminant and may be completely ineffective against others. **Important factors to consider when selecting your system are: does your filter conserve water and energy, eliminate heavy metals, chemicals and microorganisms, how much maintenance does it require, how often do you have to replace filter, how easy is it to move (are you a tenant?), do you want whole house or localized filtration (drinking water) and what is the cost?** Below are comparison charts from the most popular water filtration methods and the drinking water brands on the market.

The following figures compares the performance of carbon, ceramic, reverse osmosis and distilled filtration systems as well as demonstrate how the quality of water changes over time for distillation, reverse osmosis and carbon filters.

Water Method Comparison Chart

Disease	Element Causing Disease	Reverse Osmosis	Ion Exchange	Distillation	Activated Carbon	Precipitation	Ultra-violet	Boiling
Cancer Initiation	Chlorine	A	No	C	A	No	No	No
pH in equilibrium	Alkali Fume	A	B	A	No	No	No	No
Cancer Initiation	Chloroform	A	No	C	A	No	No	No
Bacterial Infections	Bacteria	A	No	A	C	No	A	A
Virus Infections	Viruses	A	No	A	No	No	A	A
Intoxication, Liver Disease	Agriculture Chemicals	A	No	A	A	No	No	No
Hepatitis	Dioxin	A	No	A	C	No	No	No

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Cancer	Radioactive Material	A	A	C	No	No	No	No
Anorexia	Taste and Odor	A	No	No	A	No	No	No
Calculus, Enteritis	Precipitate	A	No	A	C	A	No	No
Poisoning	Organic Substances	A	No	C	A	No	No	No
Cancer Initiation	Fluoride	A	A	A	No	No	No	No
Cancer Initiation	Fluorescence	A	No	No	No	No	No	No
Neuritis	Arsenic	B	B	B	No	No	No	No
Calculus	Calcium	B	B	B	No	No	No	No
Notalgia	Cadmium	B	B	B	No	No	No	No
Nephrosis, Lead Poisonings	Lead	B	B	A	No	No	No	No
Organic Phosphorus Poisoning	Phosphorus	B	B	A	No	No	No	No
Electrolyte In-equilibrium	Potassium	B	B	A	No	No	No	No
Hypersensitive Heart Disease	Sodium	B	B	A	No	No	No	No
Digestive System Disease	Sulphur	B	B	A	No	No	No	No
Digestive System Disease	Magnesium	B	B	A	A	No	No	No

A = 100% Removal; B= 96%-99% Removal; C=Partial Removal; No=Cannot Remove

References: <http://www.officewater.net/filtertechnology.php>

Brand Comparison Chart

Brand	APEC	Aquasana	Brita	Brita	Culligan	Everpure	GE	PUR
Model	RO-45	AQ-4000	42201 Faucet	Classic Pitcher	Under Counter Models	ROM III Ev9273-86	MWFDS Smartwater Fridge Filter	Faucet FM-3333
Filtration Type	Reverse Osmosis System	Two Activated Carbons	Activated Carbon	Activated Carbon	Reverse Osmosis Service Contract	Reverse Osmosis System	Activated Carbon	Activated Carbon
Retail Price	\$299.00	\$99.99	\$29.99	\$23.05	\$300 Setup + \$30/Month	\$599.25	\$32.70	\$22.93
Replacement Cartridge Cost & Capacity	\$59.00 / 2400 Gal.	\$48.00 / 500 Gal.	\$13.97 / 100 Gal.	\$9.98 / 40 Gal.	\$100 Yearly Cartridge Replacement Service	\$225.00 / 3000 Gal.	\$30.00 / 400 Gal.	\$12.86 / 100 Gal.
Per Gallon "Cost of Use"	2.5 cents / Gallon	9.6 cents / Gallon	14 cents / Gallon	25 cents / Gallon	Depends on usage amount	7.5 cents / gallon	7.5 cents / gallon	12.9 cents / gallon



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Est. Cartridge Cost for next 5,000 gal. (Aprox 3-4 Yrs Supply)	\$125.00	\$480.00	\$698.50	\$1247.50	Rental Fees 3yrs = \$1380 4yrs = \$1840	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$643.00
Removes Arsenic	Yes>93%	No	No	No	Yes>90%	Yes>90%	No	No
Removes Bacteria	Yes>99%	No	No	No	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	No	No
Removes Benzene	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes	Yes>98%	Yes>95%	Yes>99%	Yes
Removes Chlorine	Yes 99%	Yes 99%	Yes 99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes 59%	Yes 96%	Yes 98%
Removes Chromium	Yes>93%	No	No	No	Yes>90%	Yes>90%	No	No
Remove Cysts	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%
Remove Fluoride	Yes>90%	No	No	No	Yes>90%	Yes>85%	No	No
Removes Lead	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>95%	Yes>93%	Yes	Yes
Removes MTBE	Yes>98%	Yes>93%	Yes	Yes	Yes>98%	Yes>95%	Yes	Yes
Removes Nitrates	Yes>85%	No	No	No	Yes>90%	Yes>85%	No	No
Removes Perchlorate	Yes>90%	No	No	No	Yes>90%	Yes>90%	No	No
Removes Radioactive Metals	yes>93%	No	No	No	Yes>90%	Yes>93%	No	NO
Removes Sediment	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes>99%
Removes THMs	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes	Yes	Yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes 95%	Yes
Removes Viruses	Yes>95%	No	No	No	Yes>93%	Yes>93%	No	No
Removes VOCs	yes>99%	Yes>99%	Yes	Yes	Yes>90%	Yes>90%	Yes 99%	Yes

* Contaminant rejection percentages are based on manufacturer's claims and on scientific data available on activated carbon and reverse osmosis water filtration technology capabilities.

Reference: http://www.water-filter-comparisons.com/waterfilter_comparison_chart.htm

There is no filter on the market capable of removing 100 percent of all contaminants. Do your research and select the system that is best for you and your family. **Remember if you do not have a water filter then you are the filter!**

For more information on water filters please visit:

http://www.purahome.com/articles/files/water_cleaning_technology_comparison-contaminant_removal.pdf

References:

1. <http://www.guide2waterfilters.com/water-filter-types/drinking-water-systems.aspx>
2. http://www.aquatechnology.net/system_comparisons.html