



Tips for Selecting a Water Treatment System

Looking for a water treatment device, but confused about how to ensure you are selecting the right one? Here are three tips to help make the process of selecting a home water treatment system easier.

Determine your water treatment needs

Identify your main water quality concerns. Does the water taste funny or have an unusual odor? Is the water discolored or leaving scale deposits? Or, did a water test or community water quality report indicate the water contained high amounts of any contaminants?

Determine which products can treat your concerns.

Several types of water treatment systems are available today. Five of the most common technologies and their potential uses are as follows:

- *Filter medias* - may reduce chemicals, some metals, parasites and sediment.
- *Cation exchange softener* - help reduce hard water; some also reduce barium and radium.
- *Distillers* - help reduce heavy metals, minerals, non-volatile chemicals.
- *Reverse osmosis* - may reduce some metals, minerals, and parasites; post-filter may also reduce some chemicals.
- *Ultraviolet disinfection* - help protect against bacteria and viruses.

Select the product style that best suits your needs.

Water treatment systems come in several product styles, ranging from whole house units to those that

install at a single faucet location. Some common types include:

Pour Through - Water drips via gravity through a filter. Pros: no installation required. Cons: frequent filter changes.

Faucet Mount - Mounts on kitchen faucet. Uses diverter to direct water through filter. Pros: easy to install. Cons: frequent filter changes.

Counter-top Connected to Sink Faucet - Filter connects to existing sink faucet via a hose/tubing. Pros: easy to install and longer filter life. Cons: uses up counter space.

Plumbed-In to Separate Tap - Installs under a sink; filtered water is usually dispensed through an auxiliary faucet. Pros: longer filter life. Cons: may require professional installation.

Point of Entry - Installs where the water line. Pros: treats all water entering the home. Cons: may require professional installation.

Keep in mind that no product will be able to protect against all contaminants, so ensure the system is certified to address your specific concerns.

For additional tips, contact the NSF Consumer Affairs Office at info@nsf.org or download our [Drinking Water fact kit](#).

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