

WATER FILTER GUIDANCE

What's in Your Water?

The City of Bloomington conducts hundreds of water tests each week to ensure a safe drinking water supply that meets state and federal standards. The AWWA recommends and the City suggests that you think about why you want to use a water filter and what you want the filter to remove, because it may not be necessary. You can learn more about your water in the City's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, available at:

<http://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/public-works/divisions/water/water-quality>



Types of Water Filters

Various styles and types of water treatment devices are certified to remove a range of contaminants from water, in addition to reducing odor and improving taste. We recommend devices that are installed at your faucet tap (also known as point-of-use) or a pitcher-style filter. Any type of water treatment device that you choose should meet National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) standards.

Certified Filters

Independent agencies certify filters to meet NSF standards and manufacturer claims. For information about NSF-certified filters, contact:

NSF International: <http://www.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU> or call 1-800-673-8010

Water Quality Association: <http://www.wqa.org> or call 1-630-505-0160



Water Filter Maintenance

It's important to routinely replace filter cartridges according to the manufacturer's instructions. Over time, a filter can accumulate metals and bacteria.

Cost of Filter and Replacement Cartridges

Water filters and cartridges can vary in their longevity (length of use) and replacement cost. Filters are sold in most stores or can be purchased on the internet and range from \$15 to \$50 depending on what type of filter you desire.

Reducing Potential Lead Exposure

Drinking water in individual households and buildings can contain lead if water passes through lead pipes and other lead sources. Drinking water is lead-free when treated and delivered throughout the City. However, sources of lead and lead levels can vary among individual buildings. Galvanized iron plumbing is also a type of plumbing that can be a lead source in households that have, or have had, a lead service pipe. Pregnant women and children under age six should use filtered tap water for drinking and cooking until all sources of lead have been removed. This includes water used for making ice, beverages, and infant formula. Filters certified for lead removal are required to meet NSF Standard 53



If you have questions about your drinking water or are experiencing water quality issues, please contact the Public Works Department at 309-434-2225.