

Treating Your Own Water

Do you feel kind of foolish buying water? If it comes from your kitchen tap, why pay for it at the store? It's pretty ridiculous when you think about it. Still, it sells to the tune of \$15 billion. That's billion with a "B." Why?

People buy bottled water because it has fewer chemicals and impurities in it. Moreover, it tastes better than tap water. But there's a dirty little secret about the bottled water business. At least 25% of bottled water starts out as city tap water according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

You can get the same high quality water at home, without paying an arm and a leg, without lugging cases of bottles or gallon jugs home from the store. You can treat your own water yourself, automatically, painlessly, *inexpensively*.

Point-Of-Use vs. Point-Of-Source

You can treat the water in your home immediately before use (point-of-use) or when it enters your home (point-of-entry). Point-of-use water filtration systems range from filter pitchers to under sink filtration systems. Point-of-entry systems are often referred to as whole-house water filtration systems.



Did you know?

The beginning of spring is designated by the Vernal equinox, a specific moment in time when the Sun is vertically over the equator. This usually happens around the 20th or 21st of March. The term equinox refers to a day in time when sunrise and sunset are approximately 12 hours apart.

At B-N-K Plumbing we strive to provide the best products and services to our customers at affordable prices. Please contact us for all of your plumbing needs. We are happy to help with installation, maintenance and repairs.



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Whole-house systems are considered superior because they treat all water entering the home, rather than the water at one faucet alone. Thus, the whole-house approach improves water quality at all faucets and showerheads, improves refrigerator ice, and improves the water used to wash clothes. Depending on the quality of your source water, it may even extend the life of water appliances.

Under sink point-of-use and whole-house water filtration systems offer the additional advantage of combining more than one water purification method. Water pitcher and faucet filter point-of-use systems are typically limited to carbon filtration.

Common Types Of Water Purification

The three most common types of water purification are activated carbon, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light. Often, whole-house systems combine more than one purification method. The best method for you depends on your water, your objectives, and your budget.

Activated Carbon

Activated Carbon is often used for pre-treatment of a reverse osmosis purification system, but it can also be used as a standalone system. Activated Carbon systems use adsorption and catalytic reduction to remove unwanted particles from water. Bottom Line: these filters are good at removing organic chemicals, but not inorganic contaminants like metals. Although they will not remove all impurities, they will improve the quality and taste of your drinking water.

Ultraviolet light

UV Treatment, like Activated Carbon will work well when eliminating biological contaminants, but not when reducing heavy metals or chemicals. UV Treatment will kill bacteria and other microorganisms, but will not remove the impurities.

Reverse Osmosis units

Reverse Osmosis is the most effective kind of water filtration system, however it also produces the most waste. Only a small percentage of water traveling through the system (approximately 5-10%) will end up being purified water. The rest is discarded as waste water. However, this kind of water purification system will remove contaminants that activated carbon and ultraviolet light will not. Reverse Osmosis uses a semi-permeable membrane that only allows water to flow through.

Adding It Up

Safety concerns aside, installing a water filtration system in your home makes sense. With bottled water costing \$8 a case at the local grocery store, a water filtration system will pay for itself in a few years. Get all of the bottled water you need for pennies. Use it in cooking (see if it doesn't make vegetables taste better). Water the plants with it. Even give it to your dog. Why not? The price of water no longer matters.

If you want to learn more, call us! We'll meet with you to assess your needs, see what's involved in an installation for your home, and give you an estimate for your own whole house purification system.



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\$50 OFF

Water Purification System Installation

Ready to enjoy the benefits of a whole house water purification system? We will take \$50 off your installation until the end of June.

Not valid with any other offer. No other discounts apply. Expires 6/30/11

Forget the Kit!

Learn how to dye eggs using household items.

Make Your Own Dye

Start with boiling water. Transfer some of the water to a small glass or cup big enough to hold an egg. Add one teaspoon to one tablespoon of white vinegar and a few drops of food coloring. Put a hard boiled egg into the glass and let it sit for at least 5 minutes. If the color is lighter than desired, add more food coloring or let the egg soak in the mixture longer.

Creative Designs

In order to achieve a banded effect on the eggs, put rubber bands around them tightly. Any area protected by the rubber band will not be dyed. Crayons are a great way to add character to your eggs. Draw a design on the egg before dyeing it and the crayon will create decorative accents. White crayons work great.

Create Texture

Using one tablespoon of vegetable oil mixed with your dye will create a marbled look to your eggs. Wrapping cheesecloth tightly around the egg before dyeing will create a blocky texture.

Drying the Eggs

A great trick to for drying dyed eggs is to cut an empty paper towel roll into short cylinders and place one egg on each. When dry, they can be returned to the original carton for storage.



Egg Safety

Whether you are celebrating Easter, Passover, or any other occasion this spring, it's important to remember to handle eggs safely.

For egg safety - to stay healthy and avoid foodborne illness — USDA advises:

- Always buy eggs from a refrigerated case. Choose eggs with clean, uncracked shells.
- Buy eggs before the "Sell-By" or "EXP" (expiration) date on the carton.
- Take eggs straight home from the grocery store and refrigerate them right away. Check to be sure your refrigerator is set at 40°F or below. Don't take eggs out of the carton to put them in the refrigerator -- the carton protects them. Keep the eggs in the coldest part of the refrigerator — not on the door.
- Raw shell eggs in the carton can stay in your refrigerator for three to five weeks from the purchase date. Although the "Sell-By" date might pass during that time, the eggs are still safe to use. (The date is not required by federal law, but some states may require it.)
- Always wash your hands with warm water and soap before and after handling raw eggs. To avoid cross-contamination, you should also wash forks, knives, spoons and all counters and other surfaces that touch the eggs with hot water and soap.
- Don't keep raw or cooked eggs out of the refrigerator more than two hours.
- Egg dishes such as deviled eggs or egg salad should be used within 3 to 4 days.



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