



## WATER TALK

# BE WELL AWARE:

## Treat your well water: A step-by-step guide

1. Learn about your well water quality to protect your household's health and safety - See *Be Well Aware - Protect and clean your well*.
2. Get your water tested by an accredited lab and find out if your well needs treatment - See *Be Well Aware - Test your well water*.
3. Find a reputable water treatment dealer to advise you on the best treatment method to use, based on your well water quality testing results.
  - ▶ Ask whether you need a
    - ▶ point-of-use system which is placed at a single tap.
    - ▶ whole home system, also called a point-of-entry system.
4. Select a treatment device certified to the right NSF/ANSI standard for treating your specific well water quality problems.
  - ✓ Check the information included by the manufacturer to find out which microorganisms or chemicals it is certified to remove.
  - ✓ The table below provides a few examples of certified treatment devices that can help address some common well water quality issues.

Ask a reputable water treatment dealer or professional for help.



Treatment device NSF/ANSI standard	Bacteria	Viruses	Protozoa	Nitrate/Nitrite	Arsenic	Manganese	Hardness	Important notes
<b>Ultraviolet (UV) light – Class A NSF/ANSI 55</b>	✓	✓	✓					<p>Class A systems can be used to disinfect your well water in order to reduce microorganisms.</p> <p>Particles in the water can block the ultraviolet (UV) rays and prevent disinfection. Water should be treated with a filter (NSF/ANSI 53) before UV treatment.</p>
<b>Distillation NSF/ANSI 62</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Designed to decrease specific chemicals and microorganisms.
<b>Reverse Osmosis NSF/ANSI 58</b>			✓		✓*			<p>* Pentavalent arsenic (Arsenic V) removal only. Other forms of arsenic may not be removed. It is important to check the type of arsenic present in your well water.</p>
<b>Filtration NSF/ANSI 53</b>			✓		✓*			<p>* Pentavalent arsenic (Arsenic V) removal only. Other forms of arsenic may not be removed. It is important to check the type of arsenic present in your well water.</p> <p>Carbon filters are the most common type of filter covered by NSF/ANSI 53.</p> <p>If you have concerns about lead in your drinking water, you can use a point of use filter certified to this standard for lead removal.</p>
<b>Cation exchange softeners NSF/ANSI 44</b>							✓	<p>Softeners are mainly used to remove natural water “hardness”, caused by calcium or magnesium.</p> <p>Since softeners add some salt to your water, it is recommended that you by-pass your kitchen faucet. This will help avoid the extra salt in your food or drinking water.</p>

5. Choose a water treatment device with a symbol from an accredited certifier that also indicates the appropriate treatment standard on the box or label.



6. Make sure the device is being used and maintained according to manufacturer's instructions
- ▶ Use an accredited laboratory to test the water entering and exiting your water treatment system.
  - ▶ You need to know that your water treatment system is working.



### **Need more information?**

For more information on drinking water quality:

Visit Health Canada's Water Quality website

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/health-environment/water-quality-health.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/health-environment/water-quality-health.html)

Email: [hc.water-eau.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.water-eau.sc@canada.ca)

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