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CLEAN WATER



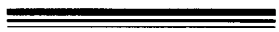
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DOCUMENTS

MAR 14 1991

*Will Water
Treatment Make
a Difference?*

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The Minnesota Extension Service, the statewide education outreach arm of the University of Minnesota, uses research from the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station to focus on central issues that affect the lives of Minnesotans.

We have publications on topics such as safe drinking water, water testing, health effects, household hazardous waste, disposal of chemical containers, garbage, the life cycle of consumer products, nutrient management, pesticide management, conservation tillage, home yard waste, sewage septic systems, waste management, and soil and water conservation.

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CLEAN WATER

Will Water Treatment Make a Difference?

If you are considering installing water treatment equipment find out what contaminants need to be removed and if treatment is the right solution to your water quality problem.

The only way to know if water from a private well is acceptable is to have it tested. City water supplies meet minimum federal standards and are regularly tested for many contaminants. Contact the city's water department or the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for results.

When your drinking water is of low quality determine if treatment is the right solution for the problem. Alternatives include

- remove source of contaminants
- repair well or drill a new well
- use other water sources—hook up to municipal or rural water system, or use bottled water
- install a treatment device

Before buying a water treatment device ask will it remove the contaminants in my water?

- how much?
- how long and how do you know?
- what cost?
- what maintenance?

Water Treatment Devices

Contaminants	Anion Exchange	Carbon Filter	Distillation	Reverse Osmosis
Nitrates	✓		✓	✓
Lead			✓	✓
THMs (trihalomethanes) *		✓		★★
Many pesticides		✓	✓	✓
Solvents		✓		★★

*chlorinated organic chemicals

★★many reverse osmosis systems include a carbon filter

If a water supply tests positive for coliform bacteria, correct the problem (examples, shock chlorination of the water system, repair well) or use bottled water for drinking. Disinfection by chlorination or distillation should be considered temporary measures.

Publications

For information on reducing contaminants in water using water treatment devices contact your health department for a copy of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) publication "Home Water Treatment Devices." From your local county extension office or the Minnesota Extension Service Distribution Center, 3 Coffey Hall, request the following:


AG-FO-0814 Drinking Water Quality in Minnesota

HE-FO-3712 Tests and Standards for Drinking Water

For additional publications on home water treatment and water contaminants contact your local county extension office.

The **N.S.F. Seal** indicates a product/material complies with the applicable National Sanitation Foundation Standard. N.S.F. is an independent testing laboratory.

The **W.Q.A. Seal** indicates a product complies with voluntary industry Water Quality Association Standards.



You can make a difference.
Contact your local county extension
office for more information on how to
get involved.

