

Using Water Filters to Remove Lead

Many home water filters are effective at removing lead. If you choose to purchase a device, we encourage you to make a fully informed decision. That means understanding if your home is at risk, choosing the right device for the job, and always maintaining it properly.

We do not recommend specific brands or companies; however, we do urge you to consider only filters that have been independently certified to remove lead.

Whether to use a filter

- ⊕ Have your household water supply tested to see if it contains lead. Testing is easy and relatively inexpensive.
- ⊕ If lead is detected, consider hiring a licensed plumber to look into the problem. Ultimately, removing the lead from your pipes and plumbing is the best way to protect your household.

Choosing a filtration device

- ⊕ There are three basic types of in-home water filters:
 - Pitcher-style filtration devices
 - Under-sink or in-line filters
 - Whole-house filtration systems
- ⊕ If you only draw water for drinking and cooking (or formula preparation) from one source, such as the kitchen tap, a whole-house system probably isn't necessary. If your refrigerator has a water/ice dispenser, you can install a filter on that water line. In many cases, new refrigerators actually come with water filters.
- ⊕ Remember, lead isn't absorbed through the skin, so there is no need to filter your shower/bath water.

What to know before making a purchase

- ⊕ The most important step in choosing a filter to remove lead is to verify that it is certified for that purpose; verify all product claims before making a purchase decision.
- ⊕ The non-profit NSF International tests and certifies water filtration devices for lead removal. NSF's website, nsf.org, carries a guide specifically focused on lead devices.
- ⊕ Water filtration systems are only effective if properly maintained. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on cleaning and/or replacing filters.
- ⊕ Beware of door-to-door or telemarketing pitches. RAWA does not stop by

unannounced to collect water samples or recommend home treatment systems.
Verify all product claims and investigate companies before making a purchase.

Remember: The best way to remove the potential for lead at the tap is to remove lead from your pipes and plumbing. Contact us at 610-406-6300 if you believe you have Lead piping in your home and RAWA will come out to do a free inspection.