



# WHY TAP WATER IS THE BEST CHOICE

If you buy bottled water over tap water for taste preferences or health concerns, there are a variety of filters you can buy to improve your water. These filters are still cheaper than buying bottled water. See the next page for filter information.



#### It is safe.

- · Water professionals monitor water quality constantly to ensure the water that comes out of your pipes is safe to drink.
- Each utility reports results to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), where the results are rechecked to make sure the tap water is safe.
- If your water tastes or smells bad then it is likely due to old pipes in the building. There are water sources in Colorado that have lots of minerals that can impact the taste. Also, seasonal changes in surface water can impact the taste of your drinking water. In both instances, your water is still safe to drink.
- If you have any questions about the quality of your water, contact your water provider or CDPHE.

# It is healthy.

- · Most people in Colorado have tap water with the right amount of fluoride in the water to protect teeth. Most bottled water does not contain fluoride.
- Replacing sugar-sweetened beverages with tap water can lead to better weight control, better oral health and better overall health.
- Daily consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages is linked to weight gain, obesity, type-2 diabetes, heart disease, poor oral health and gout.

#### It is smart.

- Drinking tap water instead of bottled water will save you hundreds of dollars each year.
- Bottled water costs \$1.22 per gallon, tap water costs less than one-cent per gallon.
- On average, bottled water costs 300x more than tap water.

# **CHOOSING A WATER FILTER**

Using filters is still cheaper than buying bottled water. When choosing a water filter, we suggest you select one that has been certified by the National Sanitation Foundation - now called NSF International, or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This certification will be on the box. The filter you choose may not look exactly like these images. There are many brands and styles of filters to choose from. The important part to choosing a filter is the NSF/ANSI ratings, and making sure the filter doesn't take out fluoride.

#### GOOD

#### NSF/ANSI 42 Rating - Improve taste

These filters improve the taste of your tap water by reducing the chlorine, taste, odor and sediment that may be present in your water. The levels of these things in your tap water are not bad for your health but may affect the taste of your water.

#### BETTER

#### NSF 53 Rating - Improve quality and taste

In addition to improving the taste of your tap water, these filters reduce pollutants that may be bad for your health. You can see if your tap water has any pollutants by looking at your utility's Consumer Confidence Report.

# TYPES OF WATER FILTERS

# Water pitcher

Water pitchers are an affordable option for filtering your tap water. These filters work well to improve water quality and taste and fit easily in a refrigerator. Follow the manufacterer's guidelines for replacement schedule of filters. Be sure to review the NSF/ANSI rating on any product that you purchase.

**Water pitcher examples:** NSF/ANSI 42 - Drink SOMA glass water carafe with filter, PUR Classic 11-cup pitcher with LED.

# Cost \$20 and up



## On-tap water filter

On tap filtration works great for those that want to filter water for cooking and drinking, but use normal tap water for other activities such as cleaning. Follow the manufacterer's guidelines for replacement schedule of parts or filters. Be sure to review the NSF/ANSI rating on any product that you purchase.

On-Tap examples: NSF/ANSI 42 - Brita Basic Mount Faucet Water Filter System, PUR PLUS Chemical & Physical Horizontal Faucet Mount Water Filtration System.

# Cost \$40 and up



### Beneath the sink filter

Under-sink filtration systems are more costly and provide longer term filtration for your water. You will need to change the filters on a regular basis, as specificed by the manufacturers information. Many undersink filtration systems are designed so you can install them yourself. We recommend hiring a certified plumber if you are not comfortable installing the filter system. Be sure to review the NSF/ANSI rating on any product that you purchase.

**Beneath the sink examples:** NSF 53 - Aquasana two stage under counter water filtration system, Frizzlife MK99 Under Sink Water Filter System, GE Single stage water filtration system.

## Cost \$100 and up

