CARLE PLACE WATER DISTRICT

578 Mineola Avenue • PO Box 345
Carle Place, NY 11514
(516) 333-0540 • www.carleplacewater.org

The Facts on Home Water Filters

Do I need to install a home filtration system?

For public health protection the answer is no. The Carle Place Water District provides drinking water to the community that is in strict compliance with all state and federal mandated water quality standards. Drinking water can reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. As long as those contaminants are at levels no higher than state and EPA standards, the water is considered safe to drink for healthy people. Treatment is performed, as needed, at the supply well to ensure regulatory compliance. The treatment facilities are designed by professional engineers and approved by the health department. New York State Health Department Certified Water Plant Operators are employed by the District to operate and maintain the water treatment systems.

The Water District is also required to test all its supply wells and various locations in the distribution system for over 144 parameters including volatile and synthetic organic chemicals, inorganics, metals, bacteria pesticides and herbicides. These tests are conducted by an independent, state certified laboratory with results sent directly to the Nassau County Health Department, which also conducts regular spot checks on its own. Results of these tests are published each year in our annual drinking water quality report.

When should a home filtration system be considered?

Filtration systems can be considered to address aesthetic concerns. Here are some examples:

- Disturbances in our distribution system may generate discolored water which is a result of iron from unlined water mains. While the water is safe to drink a particulate filter can be considered if this is a chronic problem or objectionable to the consumer.
- Our water is disinfected with chlorine to proactively inhibit bacteriological development within our system. Customers may find chlorine taste and odor to be objectionable. A granular activated carbon filter can be used to remove taste and odor.

Not all home filtration systems are the same.....so buyer beware!

If you are considering installing a filter please note that home filtration systems must be properly designed and maintained. Failure to do so could actually make water quality actually worse! Any water quality testing that is performed must be completed by a New York State Health Department certified laboratory for drinking water. A home test kit will often provide grossly inaccurate results.

Make sure that the filter unit you intend to purchase can address your concerns. The EPA and State Health Department do not endorse specific units. There are three different certifications to look for on the label. These organizations include NSF International (NSF), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the Water Quality Association (WQA). If a home water treatment unit is not certified by one of these organizations, contact the manufacturer directly and ask for proof of the manufacturer's claims. Each of these organizations is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and they each certify units using ANSI/NSF standards.

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For additional information, please visit the UPSEPA's website at www.epa.gov, or contact the Carle Place Water District at (516) 333-0540 or at talexandro@carleplacewater.org.

Resources:

EPA Home Drinking Water Filtration Fact Sheet.
https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/home-drinking-water-filtration-fact-sheet

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/home-water- treatment/water-filters.html

NSF International:

NSF writes standards and provides testing and certification services for point-of-use (POU) and point- of-entry (POE) drinking water treatment systems and components. Testing can include material safety, structural integrity and contaminant reduction testing. The NSF POU/POE standards address the wide array of drinking water treatment technologies on the market today, including adsorptive medias, ion exchange, reverse osmosis, ceramic filters, pleated filters, ultraviolet (UV), distillation, reduction-oxidation (redox), shower filters and more.

- http://www.nsf.org/services/by-industry/water-wastewater/residential-water-treatment/
- http://www.nsf.org/services/by-industry/water-wastewater/residential-water-treatment/residential-drinking-water-treatment-standards
- http://info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/

Underwriters Lab (UL):

UL provides drinking water product certification services for drinking water products and chemicals.

- http://www.ul.com/code-authorities/environmental-and-public-health/drinking-water/
- http://www.ul.com/global/documents/offerings/perspectives/regulators/environmental/UL_DrinkingWaterTreatmentUnitCertification.pdf
- https://www.ul.com/plumbing-products-and-water-system-components

Water Quality Association (WQA):

WQA is an international trade association representing the household, commercial and industrial water quality improvement industry

- https://www.wqa.org/Find-Products#/