

Home Water Treatment

If you are concerned about the quality of your home's water, there are several treatment options that can help you improve its taste, odor and overall safety.

Homeowners have become increasingly concerned about the quality of drinking water as news pours in from around the country about lead contamination or cities whose water supply is unsafe. Likewise, people with private water supplies from sources such as wells may be concerned about the water quality.

Concern about contamination has led a lot of homeowners to treat their water through various home water treatment systems. No single system can prevent all contaminants, but different methods can work together.

WATER QUALITY

Water quality refers to the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water, including its clarity, taste, odor and safety for human and environmental health.

Before you choose a treatment option, it's important to



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REAL ESTATE 101

Passive Cooling

Passive cooling has become a unique selling point for many homeowners as the world grows hotter. WGSN, a trend forecasting company, has predicted a rising demand for homes outfitted with creative cooling solutions. Passive cooling keeps homes cool without using gas or electricity. Some forms include reflective white paint on exteriors, clerestory windows and skylights, triple-glazed windows, exterior window coverings and landscaping such as trees, fountains or ponds.

have your water tested to determine what, if any, contaminants are present. This can help you choose the right treatment method and ensure that it is effective in removing the specific contaminants that are present in your water.

WATER TREATMENT CLASSIFICATION

Most water treatment methods and equipment can be classified as either point-of-

use (POU) or point-of-entry (POE) systems. POU are usually installed close to where the water is used, such as at the end of a kitchen faucet or in the plumbing line under the sink. They treat small amounts of water — usually the amount that the average family uses per day for drinking and cooking.

POE systems treat water as it enters the home and are usually larger and more expensive.

They are typically found in the basement or utility area. These systems are also called “whole house” systems.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Filtration is a common water treatment option that involves removing contaminants by passing water through a physical barrier. Some common filtration systems include activated carbon filters, reverse osmosis sys-

tems and UV filters. Each type of filter is designed to remove different types of contaminants. You'll need to purchase the right one for your needs.

Water that contains high levels of calcium and magnesium is considered “hard.” Water softeners can replace these minerals with sodium or potassium ions which prevent build-up in pipes and appliances and improve the taste of your water.

Distillation involves boiling water and then collecting the steam that is produced. This process removes contaminants that have a higher boiling point than water, such as heavy metals and certain chemicals.

Ultraviolet radiation treatment kills microorganisms using special lamps. It's a chemical-free option for destroying bacteria, viruses and protozoa. It destroys even organisms that are resistant to chlorine, but it will not remove heavy metals, petroleum products or pharmaceuticals.

Each treatment option comes with its own cost and maintenance requirements. Some systems require more maintenance than others. Researching your options can help you find a water treatment option that meets your specific needs and helps ensure that your home's water is clean, safe and enjoyable to drink.



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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

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Special assessment: A tax or levy against real property for improvements. The fee is not necessarily imposed on all residents of a community, but to the owners of specific properties. Also, condominium owners may have a special assessment imposed for specific improvements. **SOURCE:** MLS.com

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