



# PLAINVIEW WATER DISTRICT

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## HOUSEHOLD WATER FILTRATION FACT SHEET

### **Do I need to install a home filtration system?**

For public health protection the answer is no. The Plainview 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?**

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.

Filtration systems can be considered to address aesthetic concerns. Some examples include:

- Our water is disinfected with chlorine to proactively inhibit bacteriological development within our drinking water distribution system. Customers may find chlorine taste and odor to be objectionable. A granular activated carbon filter can be used to remove taste and odor. Filling a glass pitcher of water and leaving the top exposed or the lid loose overnight in the refrigerator can allow the chlorinated water to dissipate and eliminating taste and odor, this helpful tip has also proven to be effective.

*Proudly serving the Plainview-Old Bethpage community since 1928*

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

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 and do not conduct independent testing of manufacturer's claims. 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 specifically regarding the contaminants that concern you. Each of these organizations is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and they each certify units using ANSI/NSF standards.

**Where can I find out more information regarding different types of home filtration systems?**

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>NS

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.

- <https://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/articles/home-water-treatment>

*For further information on water quality please contact the Plainview Water District at (516) 931-6469 or visit our website at [www.plainviewwater.org](http://www.plainviewwater.org)*