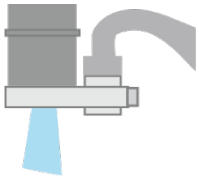
Choose the water filter that's right for you!

Using water filters the right way can help keep you and your family safe from lead. There are different kinds of filters you can choose from. This guide can support you to pick the best one for your home.

Know your choices

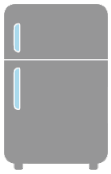
Some water filters work right where you use the water, like at your tap or from your refrigerator. Many of these filters certified to remove lead come in different styles. All styles can work!



Faucet filters

Pitcher filters

Under sink filters



Refrigerator filters

When choosing a water filter, think about what your family needs. Here are some simple tips to help you choose:

- **Plan for setup and care:** Know how often you need to change the filter and if there are any other care tasks.
- **Think about where you use water:** If you use water in different places, like the kitchen sink and refrigerator, you might need more than one filter.
- **Consider who will use the filter:** Filters work differently. Choose one that everyone in your home can use and take care of easily.
- **Consider the cost:** Filter prices vary. Decide how much you can spend. Remember, you will also need to buy new filter cartridges every so often.
- **Look at other benefits:** Many filters do more than just remove lead. They can improve taste and remove other bad stuff. Check what each filter can do.

Make sure your water filter is certified to remove lead

Different filters remove different impurities. To make sure your filter is best able to reduce lead, check the box or packaging for these two certifications:

- NSF/ANSI 53 for lead reduction – this means it reduces lead, including dissolved lead.
- NSF/ANSI 42 for particulate reduction (Class 1) – this means the filter removes very small particles that may contain lead from the water.

Not sure what to look for? Check out the EPA handout for more information on finding point of use (POU) drinking water filters certified to reduce lead.

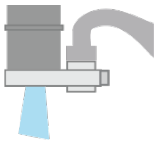
[Insert name of organization] Guidance:
[Insert fully customized, context-specific guidance or context here.]

Choose the water filter that's right for you!

Compare water filters

Water filters are easy to find at big box stores, local shops, and online. Each brand and model is different, and they can change over time. This guide is here to help you understand the types of point-of-use water filters. Always check with trusted sellers and follow manufacturer's instructions.

Remember, this guide does not cover whole-house filters because they don't remove lead that might be coming from any lead-containing plumbing inside the building.

	Faucet Filters	Pitcher Filters	Under Sink Filters	Refrigerator Filters
				
Description	These filters are attached directly to faucets.	Pitchers with water filters	Filters may be installed under a sink on the cold water line, with a separate (lead-free) faucet.	Some refrigerator models have built in filters for water and ice makers.
Water Source	Filtered water on demand	Requires refilling	Filtered water on demand	Filtered water on demand
Average Filter Cartridge Lifespan *Note: Lifespan varies based on model, usage, and water quality*	2-6 months	2-6 months	6-24+ months	6 months
Average Water Filter Cost*	$20-$100	$15-$50	$80-$200+ plus lead-free faucet	Included with select refrigerator models
Average Filter Cartridge Replacement Cost*	$10-$30	$5-$20	$50-$100	$20-$50
Things to Consider *Note: Ensure the filter cartridge is certified to remove lead*	• May require tools for installation or assembly • Not all water filters can be used with all faucets • Need to toggle off when using hot water	• Easy installation, no tools needed • Can be stored on counters or in the refrigerator • Can be heavy to pick up	• Important to ensure downstream waterline and tap do not contain lead • May require a plumber for installation • May provide higher flow rate	• May require tools for installation or assembly • Be sure the filter cartridge is certified to remove lead

**These prices are from February 2024*