Learn how to install your water filter

Making sure your certified water filter is properly installed and changing the cartridge regularly maximizes your protection from lead. When a filter is installed incorrectly, it may not be effective.

Tips for installing filters and changing cartridges!

Installing a water filter is usually a straightforward process you can do yourself. Every water filter is a little different. How you install your water filter will depend on its make and model.

Below are the steps you'll have to take when installing most water filters.

Review the manufacturer's instructions: The first step is always familiarizing yourself with the manufacturer's instructions that come with your water filter. If the instructions aren't clear or if you're having trouble, seek help or contact the manufacturer.

Assemble your filter: Water filters may need to be put together. Make sure you have all the required parts and gather any necessary tools. Follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly to assemble and install your filters.

Prepare your filter for use: Some filter cartridges have a "priming" or activation step to prepare it for use. This often involves running water through it or soaking it. This removes loose particles. You might see cloudy water or black carbon dust at first. That's ok! It should go away as you complete the "priming" step.

Plan ahead for changing your cartridge: Eventually the cartridges in filters will need to be replaced. The replacement filter needs to be compatible with your water filter, say it removes lead, and list the **NSF/ANSI Standard 53 certification** on manufacturer materials.*

Some filters have a filter replacement indicator. You may need to reset it after changing the cartridge. This indicator will tell you when it is time to replace your filter cartridge. When there is no indicator light, you'll need to track the days (or gallons used) after installing a new cartridge and set your own reminder to change your cartridge.

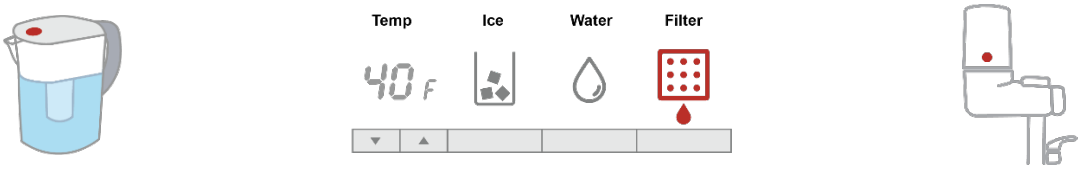

Image: Sketches showing examples of indicator lights on a pitcher, refrigerator, and faucet filter.

* To increase your level of confidence, look for filters that are also certified by NSF/ANSI Standard 42, which means the filter reduces very small particles (that might contain lead) from the water.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. For more information visit: epa.gov/safewater

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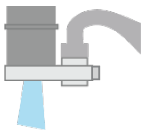
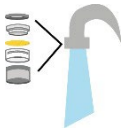
Tips for installing your filter cartridges!

Faucet filters





Faucet aerator

- Typical faucet filters come with a filter unit, filter adapter, and cartridge.
- If your faucet has an aerator, you'll need to unscrew and remove it. An aerator is the screen attached to the end of your faucet.
- A faucet filter will screw on most standard faucets, but some require an adapter.
- If you need an adapter, make sure it is compatible with your faucet. If none of the adapters fit perfectly, don't force it. Some faucet-mounted filters don't fit on flexible or extendable faucets.
- Install the cartridge into the filter unit before you attach the filter unit to the end of your faucet.
- Make sure your filter fits properly. Otherwise, some water could bypass the filter and go straight into your drinking glass.
- You typically won't need tools, but it's possible you may need common tools like a wrench.
- If you have arthritis or poor motor function, these filters can be hard to install. You might need to ask others to help.

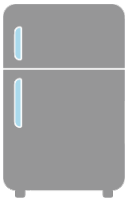
Pitcher filters

- Typical pitcher filters come with a pitcher, lid, and cartridge.
- To set up your pitcher, you usually just need to insert the cartridge into the correct area.
- Be sure the cartridge is securely inserted. Water should flow through the filter instead of around the edges.
- No tools necessary!

Under sink filters

- You'll need to turn the water off to the sink before installation and back on afterwards.
- Be sure that all water lines, fixtures, and faucet are lead-free between the filter and the point that you use water.
- You may need professional help from a licensed plumber or technician to split the cold water flow and install the filter and its dedicated tap.

Refrigerator filters



- Filters are often located inside the refrigerator on the top right or left corner, in the base grill, or behind the refrigerator.
- You'll need to turn the water off to the refrigerator before installation and back on afterwards.
- You may need common tools such as a wrench. In rare cases, you might need professional help from a licensed plumber or technician.

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[Insert fully customized, context-specific guidance or content here.]