

Water Filters, What They Do and Don't Do

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Sediment Filters:

Do: Remove large particles.

Become a breeding ground for microorganisms.

Don't: Remove chemicals, microorganisms, heavy metals or inorganic minerals.

Water Softeners:

Do: Remove water hardness by replacing calcium and magnesium with sodium

Prevent damage to pipes, water heaters and fixtures.

Don't: Remove any chemicals, microorganisms or heavy metals.

Activated Carbon Filters:

Do: Remove many chemicals when new, but plug up quickly if filtering tap water.

Contaminate over time and become a breeding ground for bacteria.

Don't: Remove microorganisms, nitrates, sulfates or heavy metals.

Reverse Osmosis:

Do: Remove most of the minerals when new but lose effectiveness over the life of the membrane. Do partially removes nitrates, sulfates, heavy metals and other chemicals when membrane is new.

Waste a tremendous amount of water, 10-20 gallons for 1 gallon.

Require a lot of expense to maintain.

Don't: Remove soluble organic compounds such as pesticides or volatile compounds like chloroform and petrochemicals.

Don't remove all microorganisms and may also become a breeding ground for bacteria.