



Making water safe to drink.

Filtering clears it. Disinfecting makes it safe. You usually need both.

1 Boiling



- A rolling boil for one full minute kills germs
- Three minutes above 6,500 feet
- Does not remove chemicals or salt

2 Unscented bleach



- 8 drops per gallon of clear water with 6% bleach
- Stir, wait 30 minutes, slight chlorine smell is right
- Plain bleach only, no scents or additives

3 Cloth or coffee filter



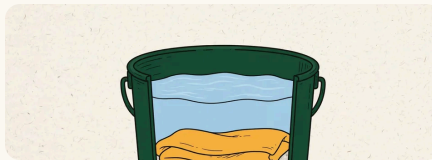
- Removes sand, leaves, bugs
- Removes nothing you cannot see
- Always a first step, never the last

4 Settling



- Let cloudy water sit until the sediment drops
- Pour off the clear top slowly
- Then filter or disinfect

5 Sand and gravel layers



- Clears the water further than cloth
- Still does not kill germs
- Good prep before boiling or bleach

6 Activated charcoal



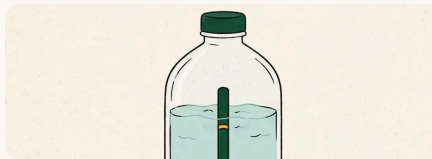
- Improves taste and smell
- Reduces some chemicals, not all
- Does not make water safe on its own

7 Pump and squeeze filters



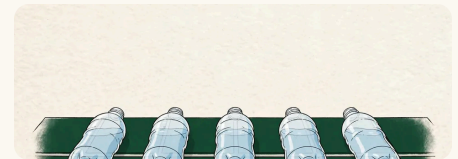
- Good ones remove bacteria and parasites
- Most do not remove viruses
- Check the rating on the box, not the marketing

8 UV light purifiers



- Kills germs in clear water
- Useless in cloudy water, filter first
- Needs batteries that work

9 Sunlight in a clear bottle



- Clear plastic bottle, full sun, six hours
- Two days if it is cloudy
- Works on germs, not chemicals

10 Purification tablets



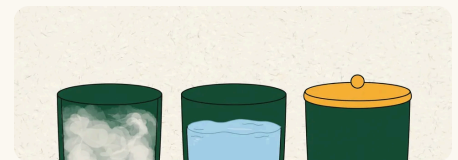
- Follow the wait time on the package exactly
- Longer for cold or cloudy water
- Light and cheap, keep some in every kit

11 Distillation



- The only home method that removes salt and most chemicals
- Slow and fuel hungry
- A pot, a lid and a cup can do it in a pinch

12 The order that works



- Settle, then filter, then boil or bleach
- Clearer water means the kill step works
- Boiling is the one method that always works

Clear it, then kill it. Boiling is the one method that always works.