



Quick Guide to Well Water Treatment

FIND THE DEVICE OR SYSTEM THAT’S RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME.



More than half of people in Maine get their drinking water from a private well. If you tested your well water and found a water quality issue, it's time to decide which type of device or water treatment system is best for your home. Speak with a certified installer who can help you choose a system that meets your needs. Consider the following factors:

- Which substances or contaminants were found in your water?
- What are the levels of contaminants in your water?
- How do you use the water in your home?

WHAT TYPE OF DEVICE OR TREATMENT SYSTEM IS NEEDED?



Point-of-use:
used with a specific faucet or drinking water source.



Point-of-entry or whole house:
treats all water entering your home.

Your choice of system will depend on:

- » The types and levels of contaminants in your water
- » How much the system costs to buy, install, and maintain
- » Your ability to install and/or maintain that system, including replacing filters regularly
- » Whether the system can handle the volume of water you need

TREATMENT SYSTEM OPTIONS

Adsorptive Media		• Adsorbs a variety of harmful substances and contaminants. • Can include granular activated carbon (GAC), Greensand filters, or singular use ion exchange. • Adsorptive media needs to be replaced regularly to work properly.
Reverse Osmosis		• Thin layers of material allow water molecules to pass through but physically block most contaminants. • Often has pre- and post-filters which can remove a variety of contaminants. • Uses a lot of water: wastes approximately 2-4 gallons for each treated gallon.
Water Softening		• Uses resin to adsorb minerals like calcium, iron, and magnesium. • Prevents common water problems including mineral deposits and scale buildup. • Can raise sodium levels in water, which can be a health concern for those on a low- or no-sodium diet. • Can make water more corrosive to plumbing. If pipes are old, this may cause lead to leach into the water.
Anion Exchange		• Different than a water softener, anion exchange uses different resin to adsorb contaminants. • Needs to be regenerated or flushed regularly to work properly.
Aeration		• Used to remove radon. • Requires special maintenance to prevent mineral buildup.
Sediment Filtration		• Physical material blocks sediment and some forms of iron and manganese.

DOES THIS OPTION TREAT MY WATER ISSUE?

	Water Softener	Adsorptive Media	Reverse Osmosis	Anion Exchange	Aeration	Sediment Filtration**
ARSENIC*		✓	✓	✓		
CALCIUM OR HARDNESS	✓		✓	✓		
CHLORIDE			✓			
COPPER	✓	✓	✓			
FLUORIDE			✓			
IRON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEAD		✓	✓			
MANGANESE	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
NITRATE/NITRITE			✓	✓		
PFAS		✓	✓	✓		
RADON		✓			✓	
SEDIMENT						✓
URANIUM***			✓			
BACTERIA	Bacteria in your well water is commonly treated with a procedure using chlorine bleach.					

* If your arsenic result is above 100 ug/L or 0.1 mg/L call us at 866-292-3474 (toll-free in Maine) or 207-287-4311 to discuss additional details about treatment.

**Only filters some forms of iron and manganese.

*** There is no NSF certified method to remove uranium.

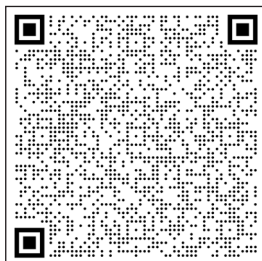
Other Tips To Consider Before Buying or Installing A Water Treatment System

- Check that the system is certified by NSF-certified standard to remove the contaminants you have in your drinking water.
- When working with a water treatment company get several quotes to make sure you get the best price.
- Ask about the maintenance and warranty of the system.

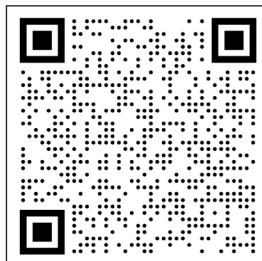
CALL: 866-292-3474 toll-free in Maine, or 207-287- 4311

EMAIL: wellwater.cdc@maine.gov

VISIT: wellwater.maine.gov



Tips on treating
your well water
for bacteria



To learn more,
visit Maine CDC

