

Choose the right

Granular Activated Carbon Filter

for your drinking water to improve taste, quality & clarity

Granular activated carbon (GAC) water treatment filters, also known as charcoal or carbon filters, can remove certain chemicals from drinking water from either city water or private wells. First, understand your personal drinking water source situation (city water or private well). Based on the information from your city water supplier or your private well water quality tests, you may decide a filter is appropriate for your water. GAC filters can help reduce color, taste and odor issues. Some GAC filters are certified to reduce chemicals such as chlorine, iron, fluoride, pesticides, lead, and two of the thousands of per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); PFOA and PFOS. A Minnesota Department of Health study found that GAC filters are effective in reducing seven types of PFAS. Reference the guidance below to find the right filter that is certified to reduce your water quality concern, ensuring to always follow the manufacturer's replacement instructions. If filtering well water, ensure the system is bacteria free before adding filtration. You can purchase a water test from the Dakota County website at www.co.dakota.mn.us search *water test*. To learn more about home water treatment, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website www.health.state.mn.us, search *home treatment*.

Water pitcher with filter

Fill the top of the pitcher with cold water from the kitchen faucet. Choose one with an indicator light to tell you when it is time to replace the filter.

Initial Cost: \$ Water pitcher with filter and usually one replacement filter can be purchased from retailer or manufacturer.

Maintenance: \$ Replacement filters can be purchased from a retailer or manufacturer.



Faucet mounted filter

Remove the kitchen faucet aerator and screw the filter unit onto the faucet. The filter will not work with an integrated pull-out sprayer. Choose one with an indicator light to tell you when it is time to replace the filter.

Initial Cost: \$ Can be purchased from a retailer or manufacturer.

Maintenance: \$ Replacement filters can be purchased from a retailer or manufacturer.



Refrigerator filter

Refrigerators with a water dispenser often have a filter. This filter would be a GAC filter. An indicator light will tell you when it is time to replace the filter.

Initial Cost: \$

Maintenance: \$ Be sure to reset the filter indicator when replacing the filter. Change when indicated it is time for replacement. Owner can change this filter.



Under-sink or inline filter

An under-sink or inline filter is often larger, allowing it to process more water before requiring a filter change.

Initial Cost: \$\$ Install by owner, plumber or licensed water conditioning contractor (LWCC).

Maintenance: \$\$ Owner, plumber or LWCC can replace filter every 6 months or per manufacture's recommendation based on gallons used.



Whole-house filter

A whole-house filter is a point-of-entry system which means it treats water for the entire house.

Initial Cost: \$\$\$ Install by a plumber or LWCC.

Maintenance: \$ Filter bed may last 10 to 15 years before replacement of bed by a plumber or LWCC.



Reverse osmosis (RO) system

A reverse osmosis (RO) system includes two GAC filters and a reverse osmosis membrane. The RO membrane reduces nitrate and other chemicals. A whole-house RO system is impractical.

Initial Cost: \$\$\$ Install by a plumber or LWCC

\$\$ Homeowner can purchase a unit from a retailer and install.

Maintenance: \$ GAC filter changed annually by owner, plumber or LWCC.

\$\$ RO membrane change every 2 years by owner, plumber or LWCC.



\$=low cost, \$\$ moderate cost, and \$\$\$ most expensive