Aquafacts No.4

Comparing drinking water systems

		PRODUCT CHOICE					
AESTHETIC PROBLEMS **IMPURITIES** **CONTAMINENTS** **DISSOLVED SOLIDS**		Sediment Filters	Carbon Filters (GAC, block etc.)	KDF ™ & Carbon mix filters	Distillers	Ultraviolet (UV) systems	Reverse osmosis
AESTHETIC	*Colour*		✓	✓	●		●
	Odour		✓	✓	●		●
	Taste		✓	✓	✓		●
PARTICULATE MATTER	*Cloudiness*	✓	✓	●	●		●
	Dirt and silt	✓	✓	●	●		●
	Rust particles	✓	✓	●	●		●
	Sand	✓	✓	●	●		●
INORGANICS	*Aluminium*			⊘	●		●
	Arsenic			✓	●		●
	Barium			⊘	●		●
	Cadmium			✓	●		●
	Calcium (hardness)		❹		●		●
	Chloride				●		●
	Chlorine		✓	✓	●		●
	Chromium			✓	●		●
	Copper				●		●
	Flouride			⊘	●		●
	Iron		❸	✓	●		●
	Lead		❸	✓	●		●
	Magnesium (hardness)		❹		●		●
	Mercury			✓	●		●
	Nitrate			⊘	●		●
	Phosphates		❸	⊘	●		●
	Pottasium				●		●
	Selenium			✓	●		●
	Sodium				●		●
	Silver				●		●
	Sulphate				●		●
	Zinc				●		●
ORGANICS	*Benzine*		✓	✓	●		●
	Herbicides & Pesticides		✓	✓	●		●
	PCB's		✓	✓	●		●
	Petroleum		✓	✓	●		●
	Trichloromethanes		⊘	✓	●		●
	Tannins		✓	✓	●		●
BIOLOGICAL	*Algae*				●	●	●
	Bacteria	❶	❶/❷	❶/❷	●	●	●
	Viruses				●	●	●

The list of substances has been compiled to show the excellent performance characteristics of some systems and does not imply existence in a municipal water supply.

Notes:

❶ Most domestic filters are rated 5 to 10 micron. All filters below 1 micron absolute will remove bacteria, including giardia and crytosporidium

❷Some activated carbon filters are impregnated with silver or contain KDF™ or other media which will inhibit bacteria growth.

❸Carbon filters are available with selective resins and bone charcoal to reduce specific inorganics such as nitrates and heavy metals.

❹Some on-line carbon filters are now being specifically designed to compete with jug filters and remove water hardness.

Key:

✓Indicates effective reduction and improvement.

⊘Indicates outstanding reduction & improvement.

●Indicates partial removal, improvement or modification.

Important: Water has a highly complex make-up. The reduction and removal characteristics can be adversely affected by certain imbalances, excessive contamination and pH. Independent advice should always be sought concerning private well and bore hole supplied water.

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a new concept in water quality

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Publication 194 ©2008