

# Water Filter Comparison Chart

Side-by-side comparison of filter types and what they actually remove

FILTER TYPE	FLUORIDE?	LEAD?	CHLORINE?	PESTICIDES?	COST RANGE	MAINTENANCE
Pitcher (Brita-style)	No	Some models	Yes	Minimal	\$20-50	Filter every 2 months
Faucet Mount	No	Yes	Yes	Some	\$20-40	Filter every 3 months
Under-Sink Carbon	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$100-300	Filter every 6-12 months
Reverse Osmosis (RO)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$200-600	Filters annually, membrane every 2-3 years
Whole House	No (carbon); Yes (RO)	Varies	Yes	Varies	\$500-3,000+	Annual filter changes
Distillation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Most	\$100-400	Clean unit regularly
Gravity (Berkey-style)	With fluoride filters	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$250-400	Clean/replace elements every 1-3 years

## Contaminant Removal by Filter Type

HEAVY METALS (LEAD, MERCURY, ARSENIC)  
RO, distillation, gravity, quality under-sink

FLUORIDE  
RO, distillation, activated alumina, bone char

**CHLORINE & CHLORAMINES**

All carbon-based filters, RO, distillation

**PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES**

RO, activated carbon (quality), distillation

**PHARMACEUTICALS**

RO, distillation, advanced carbon block

**MICROPLASTICS**

RO, distillation, gravity filters, 0.5-micron carbon

**BACTERIA & PARASITES**

RO, distillation, UV treatment, gravity (some)

**PFAS ('FOREVER CHEMICALS')**

RO, activated carbon block, ion exchange

**REMINERALIZATION**

RO and distillation strip beneficial minerals along with contaminants. Add a remineralization filter or trace mineral drops (ConcenTrace or similar) to restore calcium, magnesium, and potassium.