

# TODD CREEK VILLAGE

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

*Proud to be your area water provider*



## Because You Asked...Water Filtration

**Question:** *Do in-fridge, Brita, and other similar pitcher-type and faucet-mounted filters protect my appliances that use water?*

**Answer:** Unfortunately it's not a quick and simple yes or no answer. Most Brita or pitcher-type and similar in-fridge and faucet-mounted filters are primarily made from activated carbon and are designed to remove things like chlorine, sediment, and, in some cartridges, heavy metals. This method of filtration will help with the performance of appliances that use water and is definitely better for the appliance than straight tap water. They do not, however, remove dissolved salts like calcium and magnesium, which are what causes the carbonate scaling. Thus, when the water is boiled away in the appliance, it is likely there will still be carbonate scaling left behind even if the water has been filtered with an activated carbon filtration cartridge. To avoid this type of scaling, using distilled water instead of filtered tap water may be best if the manufacturer recommends the use of distilled water. Additionally, it's important to drain unused water from these small appliances when not using them to avoid scale build-up as the water evaporates.



**Question:** *Should I use an in-fridge or Brita type filter if I have an RO filter installed?*

**Answer:** Also not a quick and simple answer. If a reverse osmosis filtration system is installed on a house, it is not necessary to also use a Brita or fridge filter. That said, an RO system is not able to completely remove some solvents, pesticides, and volatile organic chemicals such as dissolved gases like carbon dioxide and radon, pesticides like Atrazine, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, and 2,4-D (dichlorophenoxyacetic acid). In the event that these are present, the use of a carbon activated filter can help to address the contaminants missed by the RO membrane, especially if the system is older because it does deteriorate with age and use.

The smell and taste of chlorine in water is the most common reason for people to filter water. Chlorine is added to water during treatment to ensure that it is properly disinfected and that potentially harmful bio growth doesn't occur in piping in the ground and in your home. The problem with installing a whole house filter, whether RO or activated carbon, is that these filters remove all of the residual chlorine as the water passes through. When filtration occurs as it enters the home pipes, it leaves the pipes susceptible to bio growth. Thus, if your goal is to remove the chlorine prior to consumption because you don't like the taste of it, then it's actually much better and, more importantly, safer, to handle filtration at the point of use with either a Brita/pitcher-type, or some other method of activated carbon filtration.

**Transparency Notice:** *Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm via Zoom. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend.*



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