

Drinking Water Outdoors

Practical skills

Making water safe, and what each method does and does not remove.

Educational reference. Each method has different coverage.

Method	Removes	Misses
Boiling 1 min	Bacteria, viruses, protozoa	Chemicals, sediment
Filter 0.2 µm	Bacteria, protozoa	Viruses
Chlorine dioxide	Bacteria, viruses, most protozoa	Slow on cryptosporidium
Iodine	Bacteria, viruses	Cryptosporidium; not for long-term use
UV pen	Bacteria, viruses, protozoa	Needs clear water; battery

Educational reference. Pre-filter cloudy water through cloth first: sediment shields organisms from UV and chemicals alike.