

How is our water made drinkable?

Although every treatment plant operates slightly differently, the five main steps in treating water and making it safe for humans to drink are always followed.

These are:

1. Screening

Water taken from rivers is checked for floating debris (rubbish, branches and twigs etc).

2. Coagulation

Alum is then added. This forms tiny, sticky particles which slowly gather together and remove colour and suspended dirt. This is known as **coagulation**.

3. Filtration

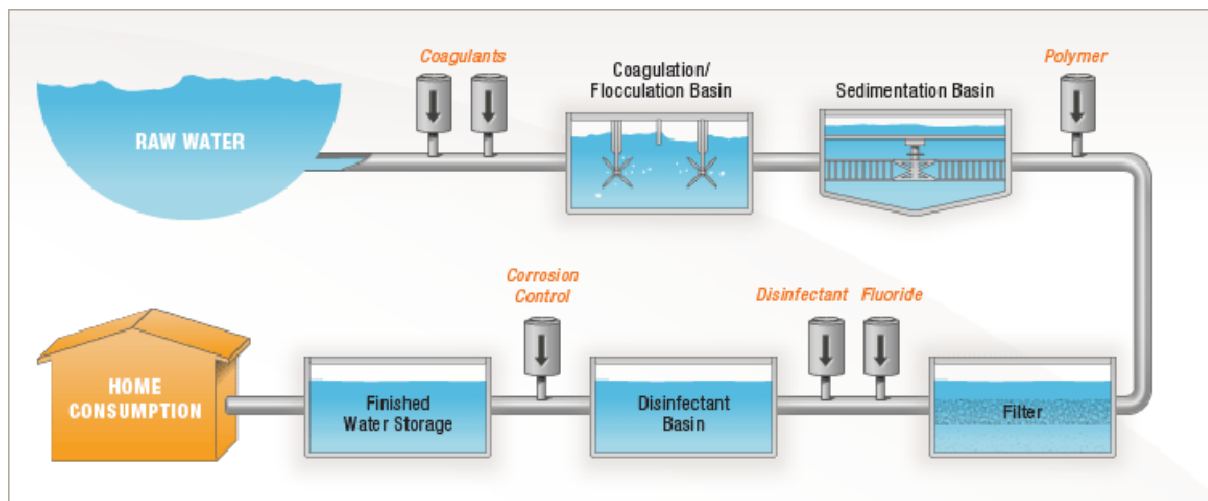
The clear water at the top of the tank is then passed through filters, which are made of sand and gravel, and remove any remaining suspended matter. This is known as **filtration**.

4. Disinfection

Chlorine is added to kill any remaining germs. A small amount of chlorine is generally present in the water that reaches your tap. This is to ensure that the quality of the drinking water doesn't disimprove as it travels through the pipe network.

5. Testing

The water is tested to ensure that it is safe for human consumption



Credit: www.denverwater.org

Explain each step in your own words:

1. Screening: _____

2. Coagulation: _____

3. Filtration: _____

4. Disinfection: _____

5. Testing: _____

