

A Consumer Tool for Identifying Point of Use (POU) Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead

POINT OF USE FILTERS

Point of use, or POU, drinking water filters are used to remove impurities from water at the point that it is actually being used. Although there are others, the POU filters covered in this document are those used in filtration systems that are attached directly to water faucets, inserted into refrigerators for water dispensers and ice makers, or inserted into water pitchers and bottles.

Faucet Filter Device



Refrigerator Filter



Pitcher with Filter



Bottle with Filter








How do I know if a POU filter has been certified to reduce lead?

There are several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies that evaluate POU drinking water filters for lead reduction. Each has a registered trademark that is used on certified products.

Certification bodies require their mark and a statement indicating testing against NSF/ANSI Standard 53 along with a claim of lead reduction.

We recommend that you also look for filters tested against NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I)*.

The table below provides the certification bodies' approved marks and the text that indicates a filter has been certified for lead reduction capabilities. Some filters can be certified by more than one certification body and have multiple certification marks.

Certification Mark(s)	
   Product Listing Directory: info.nsf.org/Certified/DWTU/	  Product Listing Directory: wqa.org/Find-Products#/
   Product Listing Directory: pld.iapmo.org/	 <p>Note: For UL, text must be located underneath the mark. The File No. is a unique product identification number.</p> <p>Product Listing Directory: database.ul.com/cgi-bin/XYV/template/LISEXT/1FRAME/index.html</p>
  <p>Drinking Water NSF/ANSI 42 Drinking Water NSF/ANSI 53</p> <p>Product Listing Directory: csagroup.org/testing-certification/product-listing/</p>	<p>Text for NSF/ANSI Standards 42 & 53 next to certification marks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example text on packaging: <i>Tested and Certified by (name of certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the claims specified on the Performance Data Sheet.</i> • Some companies may indicate lead removal in the text, or might simply state NSF/ANSI 53 or NSF/ANSI 42 above or below the mark.

Is certification required for POU drinking water filters?

There is no mandatory federal requirement for the use of POU drinking water filters or for testing or third-party certification under the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing filters that have been tested by an accredited third-party certification body or bodies for lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) capabilities against both NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53.

*Although particulate reduction (Class I) is for aesthetic effects, it is being suggested since some particulates can contain lead.

Certification Marks, Standards Text, and Claims of Reduction on Filter Packaging

Certification marks are detailed in the Table on Page 1. Examples of certification marks, NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text, and claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) as found on product packaging are shown below.

The diagram illustrates the components of a certification mark and their location on a filter packaging. It includes:

- Certification Mark on Packaging:** A circular logo with the text "Certifier's Mark".
- Example Text for Standards 42 & 53 Next to Certification Mark:**

System Tested and Certified by (name of certification body) against NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 for the reduction of the claims specified on the Performance Data Sheet.
 Sistema Probado Certificado por (nom de l'organisme de certification) según las Normas 42 y 53 NSF/ANSI para la reducción de lo afirmado específicamente en la Hoja de Datos Rendimiento.
- Claim of Lead Reduction on Packaging:** A callout pointing to a table on the filter packaging listing contaminants like Heavy metals, Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, etc.
- Claim of Particulate Reduction (Class I) on Packaging:** A callout pointing to a table on the filter packaging listing contaminants like Particulates, Industrial pollutants, etc.

The filter packaging shown is for a "Monterey Pitcher with 1 gallon" and lists the following contaminants it filters out: Heavy metals, Taste and Odor, Particulates, Industrial pollutants, Pharmaceuticals, Industrial chemicals, Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Chlorine, Particulate I, Asbestos, Benzene, Estrone, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Bisphenol A, Nonyl Phenol. It also features the text "EASY SETUP" and "With quick setup, you can start using your pitcher today." and "WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE DISCARDING FIRST FILTER."

Where are the certification marks and Standards text located?

The certification marks can be found on the filter or on the smallest container in which the filter is packaged. NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text will be located under or near a certification mark. If lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) are not specifically mentioned in the text, information can be found in a table on the packaging, on the performance data sheet located inside the filter packaging or on the manufacturer's website, or in the certifier's online product listing directory (see links in the table on Page 1).

Performance Data Sheet Inside Filter Packaging or on Websites

Claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) not included on the filter packaging can typically be found on the performance data sheet located inside the filter box or other packaging (example below), or on the manufacturer's website.

The Performance Data Sheet table is as follows:

SUBSTANCE	Overall Percent Reduction	Influent Challenge Concentration	U.S. EPA Level*/NSF Maximum Permissible Product Water Concentration
NSF/ANSI Standard 53 – Health Effects			
Lead pH 8.5	99.5%	150±15 ppb	10 ppb
Lead pH 8.5	99.6%	150±15 ppb	10 ppb
Mercury pH 6.5	95.5%	6±0.8 ppb	2 ppb
Mercury pH 8.5	95.9%	6±0.8 ppb	2 ppb
Cadmium pH 6.5	97.4%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Cadmium pH 8.5	98.2%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
Benzene	93.5%	15±1.5 ppb	5 ppb
Asbestos	>99%	5500000±4500000 Fibers/L	99%*
NSF/ANSI Standard 401 – Emerging Compounds/Incidental Contaminants			
Bisphenol A†	95.3%	2000±400 ppt	300 ppt
Estrone†	98.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Ibuprofen†	94.9%	400±80 ppt	60 ppt
Naproxen†	98.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
Nonyl phenol†	93.3%	1400±280 ppt	200 ppt
NSF/ANSI Standard 42 – Aesthetic Effects			
Chlorine	97.8%	2.0±0.2 ppb	50%*
Particulate Reduction Class I	99.9%	> 10000 particles/ml	85%*

* NSF Minimum Percent Reduction Requirement.
 † Valid for the following systems: Ultramax Jet Black (0824), Space Saver (0821), Amoli (0822), Grand Color Series (0836), Pacifica (0841), Capri (0843), Mini Plus (0844), Mareta (0847), Monterey (0850), and Wave (0853).
 These systems have been tested according to NSF/ANSI 401 (for applicable systems), 42 and 53 for reduction of the substances listed. The concentration of each of the indicated substances in water entering the systems was reduced to a concentration less than or equal to the permissible limit for water leaving the systems, as specified in NSF/ANSI 401, 42 and 53.

Callouts in the diagram point to the "Lead pH 8.5" and "Particulate Reduction Class I" rows in the table.

Additional Information

- EPA's Lead in Drinking Water Website: epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water
- Understanding NSF/ANSI Standard 53: workingpressuremag.com/understanding-nsf-ansi-53/

Questions?

- For questions about a filter: Contact the product manufacturer or see the product listing directories listed on the first page.
- For questions about this document: Send an email to latham.michelle@epa.gov or shah.manthan@epa.gov.