

WATER TREATMENT

Chemical Treatments

Chlorine Dioxide: (Katadyn Micropur, Aquamira) Effective against viruses, bacteria, cryptosporidium, and Giardia. No unpleasant taste. Usually takes about 30 minutes.

Iodine Tablets: Slow, tastes bad, questionable safety for more than occasional use.

Mechanical Treatments

Pumps: These are most commonly used and many different models are available. Some are fast and light. Pre-filtration and field cleaning may be required and cleaning is necessary to avoid contamination.

Gravity Filters: These are similar to a pump but use gravity to drive water through the filter. They have the same cleaning and maintenance requirements as a pump. They are useful for group camping.

Bottles with filter inserts: Handy for soloists and on day hikes.

UL Mixed System: Chemical treatment and filter combo with bottle filters or gravity systems.

Ultraviolet Light Treatments

Steripen: These work great as a purifier, neutralizing viruses as well as bacteria and parasites. They are easy to clean and are lightweight but need batteries (and backups). Models with a safety shut-off will not work unless you add salt.

SUMMARY

TYPE	BEST USES	COMMENTS
Boiling	Uses fuel and time	Safe for all biological hazards
Chemical	Ultra-light, fast, cost effective	Check for hazard effectiveness
Pumps	Good for solo or medium group	Check for hazard effectiveness
Gravity Filters	Medium to large groups	Check for hazard effectiveness
Ultraviolet	Lightweight, Solo use	Safe for all biological hazards