

## PICKING THE BEST WATER FILTER FOR YOU

Bob Markovich of Consumer Reports talked about it, on *The Early Show*.

### WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FILTERS?

**Carafe Filter-** Store in the refrigerator- best for filtering small quantities inexpensively, less prone to clogging, but not good for lead removal.

Example on the show: **Brita Aqualux \$25 Filter costs per year \$48**

**Faucet Mounted Filter-** Attach to faucet by removing the aerator, filter drinking and cooking water minimal installation effort, but slow the flow of water

Example on the show: **Pur Horizontal FM9400 \$40 Filter costs per year \$80**

**Countertop Filter-** Attach to the faucet by removing the aerator- good for filtering large quantities without plumbing modifications, less likely to clog than carafes or faucet mounts, can't be used on all faucets

Example on the show: **e-Spring 100188 \$575**

**Undersink Filter-** Requires plumbing, sink, or countertop changes, filter lots of water, but take up cabinet space

Example on the show: **Kenmore Sears 38454 CR Best Buy \$55**

**Reverse-Osmosis Filter-** plumbing, sink, or countertop changes, only filters that are certified to remove arsenic, must be periodically sanitized with bleach

Example on the show: **Whirlpool Gold WHER25 (Lowe's) \$160, CR Best Buy**

It's important to know what, if any, contaminants are in your water before you buy a filter.

Generally, the more contaminants, the more complicated the filter.

Consider how much water you consume compared to how much effort you can tolerate.

Check Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which the U.S. EPA requires all water systems to provide their customers each year. Some samples in Boston, for example, had lead levels more than 45 times the federal limit.

Homeowners whose water comes from private wells can face an even greater unknown; the water isn't surveyed or reported in CCRs.

### How to choose:

Read the fine print, even within a specific type of filter, contaminant removal claims vary.

Consider the long-term costs. All but one of the tested models have filters that must be replaced periodically. The models CR tested had yearly replacement costs ranging from \$20 to \$330.

**For much more from CR on water filters, go to this page on the CR Web site:**

[http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/home-garden/kitchen/water-filters/water-filters-5-07/overview/0507\\_filter\\_ov.htm](http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/home-garden/kitchen/water-filters/water-filters-5-07/overview/0507_filter_ov.htm)