

SCOUTS-L

**WATER
TREATMENT**

Date: Mon, 17 Mar 1997 07:18:54 -0600
From: "Greg L. Gough" <ggough@MAIL.ORION.ORG>
Subject: Re: Water treatment

It is interesting to note that the Backpacker article recommended the First Need filter and in their testing was the only filter to remove virus from water without iodine. The main downfall to the filter is that the filter will become restricted faster than others when filtering murky/muddy water. On a personal note, I have used my first need for 3 years with a prefilter and it is still going strong. It has never failed. I understand that they (first need) has redesigned the pump handle to improve it's ergonomics. Our surface water is still very clear in Missouri, this filter may not perform as well in your area but for the price it is a great filter for scouts.

Greg Gough
SM Troop 201, Ozark, MO. I used to be an Owl but I will always be an Eagle!

Date: Mon, 17 Mar 1997 05:12:09 -0700
Reply-To: Dave Luchau <dluchau@TEAMSP.COM>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: Dave Luchau <dluchau@TEAMSP.COM>
Subject: Water Purification Recommendations & Intro

I have been reading the digest version of Scouts-L for several weeks now, but have not felt a strong desire to respond to the entire list until today.

My name is Dave Luchau, and I am currently the Scoutmaster of Troop 460, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am an Eagle Scout, from the same Troop, only many years ago.

Concerning WATER PURIFICATION, I went through the "which brand to buy" problem almost three years ago, and we use our filters six months out of the year. I consulted the backpacking Scouters in my district, "Backpacker" magazine, info from the US Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, and The US Forest Service recommendations. I took all of my research to the local REI store, and matched specifications against filters, and they showed me how each of them worked/cleaned up/etc.

My final decision was the "Sweetwater Guardian" it retails at REI for less than \$50, and is very easy to clean and maintain. It is made of Lexan (bulletproof plastic) so it is tough enough to stand up to almost three years of use by boys.

Based on this experience, I recommend you use a toothbrush instead of the bottle brush they provide for cleaning the filter, and that you make certain you carry a spare 1" clevis pin (for backpacks) in the event the plastic pin that is used for levering the pump gets lost, you can use a clevis pin just fine. Just read the directions that come with it, and remember to dry it out after each use, don't let the boys stuff it in a ziplock bag, because it will mildew (been there, done that, got the patch). Also, change the filter portion once per year like it recommends.

IT IS A GREAT FILTER AT A GREAT PRICE. Hope this info helps more than the one person that asked.

**Date: Mon, 17 Mar 1997 08:52:55 PST
Reply-To: Robert M Lewis <science_guy@JUNO.COM>
Subject: Re: Water treatment**

I also have been using a water filter/purifyer over the past couple of years. I use one of the ones by Pur. The Scout, I think. I know that the smaller version of my model was rated #1 by Backpacker (Dec '96, "Water filter field test", Pur Hiker). I have no complaints about it. It is easy to use, clean, and hasn't clogged yet on me, unlike a first need I used about 6 years ago. I reccomend the Pur's because of their ease of use, and selectiveness of what it lets through. The only draw back is the cost. The Pur hiker costs 54.95 and the cartridge costs 24.95, while the Scout costs 79.95 and the cartridge costs 39.95.

**YIS,
Robert M. Lewis
Science_guy@juno.com**

**Date: Wed, 19 Mar 1997 03:00:00 PST
From: "Whiting, Mark D.(MWHITING)" <MWHITING@APSC.COM>
Subject: Water Filters**

**Regarding water filters and purifiers:
I have owned and used several purifiers/filters since the early 80's. My**

preference is the Katadyn Pocket Water Filter - probably the most serious filter available, will last a lifetime with average use. Please note: the Katadyn is a mechanical, ceramic micro filter and uses no chemicals (healthier). Filters down to 0.2 microns (will remove all giardia, fungi, parasites, etc.) Built in pump produces about a quart a minute. Zippered carrying pouch included. Measures 10" x 2". Wt. 23 oz. / Filters up to 15000

gallons before cartridge needs to be replaced. I have also used the PUR Scout and the PUR Explorer - both cost considerably less BUT their cartridges need replacing after 200 and 100 gallons (optimistic). This cost adds up over the lifetime of the filter or purifier. The Katadyn is more expensive initially (roughly double) but a years worth of backpacking (for our troop) costs the same. Every year after that we're ahead.

Within the last month I returned my Katadyn filter to the Katadyn distributor (Scottsdale AZ. 602-990-3131). This filter has been in use since 1983 (14 years!!!) with the same cartridge!!. I returned it because on our last trip it was obviously not filtering properly despite my best efforts (ALWAYS have backup - iodine, etc.). They found that the cartridge had failed

somehow and replaced it FREE. (\$165 value). They stand behind their product

(lifetime warranty). Our troop just bought another Katadyn Pocket filter. Don't worry about the Backpacker magazine article - 0.2 micron is the best available spec. The virus issue is less critical when you realize that they attach to bacteria which do get screened. Pumping effort not that much more

than other types that I've used.

Mark Whiting; mwhiting@apsc.com ; SM T90; SM T638 Nat Jam97
Litchfield Park, AZ.; Grand Canyon Council; Wipala Wiki Lodge #432

Date: Wed, 19 Mar 1997 10:09:28 -0700
Reply-To: JASON CRUSE <jcruse@DU.EDU>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: JASON CRUSE <jcruse@DU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Water Filters

Everyone who uses water purifiers/filters, please take note of the following (I use one myself, and found this interesting):

The Centers for Disease Control will make no recommendations on ANY water purification system, other than boiling. No independent tests have shown

conclusively that one system works better than another, or that the claims of how effective these systems are are completely accurate.

I found all of this out because I will be in southern Africa in about a month (hopefully--if the visa gets here on time) and needed info from the CDC about water and such.

If anyone would like the direct quote, I can supply it.

Jason

-- Jason A. Cruse
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"Toujours en avant. Si Dieu avait voulu que l'homme reculat, il lui aurait mis un oeil derriere la tete."

-Victor Hugo

Date: Thu, 20 Mar 1997 07:53:52 -0700
From: JASON CRUSE <jcruse@DU.EDU>
Subject: Water Filters and the CDC

I have had several people ask for the resource, so here it is.

CDC, Food and Water and Traveler's Diarrhea
Date: March 23, 1993
(received from the CDC November 1996--this is their most recent update of this information).

Treatment of Water

Boiling is the most reliable method to make water safe to drink. Bring water to a vigorous boil, then allow it to cool; do not add ice. At high altitudes allow the water to boil vigorously for a few minutes or use chemical disinfectants. Adding a pinch of salt or pouring water from one container to another will improve the taste.

Chemical disinfection can be achieved with either iodine or chlorine, with iodine providing greater disinfection in a wider set of circumstances. For disinfection with Iodine use either tincture of iodine or tetraglycine hydropiodide tablets, such as, Globaline*,

Potable-Aqua*, and others. There disinfectants can be found in sporting goods stores and pharmacies. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions. If the water is cloudy, then strain it through a clean cloth, and double the number of disinfectant tablets added. If the water is very cold, either warm it or allow increased time for disinfectant to work.

CDC makes no recommendation as to the use of any of the portable filters on the market due to lack of independently verified results of their efficacy..."

I use a filter, and will take it to Africa with me in a few weeks. However, its not the only method I plan to use. I have heard that some of the filters have failed on occasion, and that the companies settled privately and quietly to keep it from being big news. This may just be rumor, however.

The CDC has an automated fax service to have their information sent to you via fax. Call their main number, and you can get the automated system. There is no charge for the faxes.

Jason

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