

Water filter Experiment

What You Need:

- 2 cups of swamp water or tap water with mud or dirt added (the water quality is not important)
- 1 large spoon for stirring muddy water
- Clear cup for water to drain into
- Plastic water or soda pop bottle—cut in half (have an adult help with cutting)
- 1 ½ cup sand
- 1 c small pebbles
- 1 cup of cotton balls

What You Do:

1. Have an adult help you cut the bottom of your water/soda pop bottle.
2. Put your cut bottle upside down so the part you drink out of is facing down into a clear cup.
3. Place the cotton balls into the bottle
4. Small pebbles or rocks next
5. Sand goes in last
6. Pour your dirty mud water in SLOWLY so it doesn't come out the top.
7. Wait a few minutes and watch it go from dirty to clean.

***Do not drink the water, even though it will look clean.**

Fun Facts:

Did you know Austin Utilities provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: eight wells ranging from 110 to 1075 feet deep that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Spillville, and St Peter aquifers.

Is the water that comes into your house filtered?

The water provided to customers meets current drinking water standards, but the MN Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 during normal business hours or view it online at:

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa

Point to ponder: What if you had to filter all of the water you use each day?

Some people around the world have to! As you saw with this experiment, filtering dirty water to make it clean enough to drink takes time and effort. It is very important to save the water we use every day and not waste it. What are some ways you can conserve water every day?

Water Conservation

Conservation is essential, even in the land of 10,000 lakes. We must use our water wisely. Below are some tips to help you and your family conserve-and save money in the process.

- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- When shopping choose appliances and equipment with the ENERGY STAR or WaterSense logo. They are more energy and water efficient.
- Check out Austin Utilities “CONSERVE & SAVE program for rebates on qualifying energy efficient equipment purchases. For a list of available rebates and to download applications with complete terms and conditions, visit www.austinutilities.com