Water-treatment decision and pre-trip checklist

PRINT • CHECK • REVIEW

Ready & Resourceful | Updated October 8, 2026

https://readyresourceful.com/outdoor/water-filter-vs-purifier/

Trip / route: _____

Date reviewed: _____

Expected sources and current advisories: _____

Confirmed safe refill alternatives: _____

COMPARE THE EXACT PRODUCT

Model: _____

Manufacturer instructions URL / saved copy: _____

Bacteria claim and supporting documentation: _____

Protozoa claim and supporting documentation: _____

Virus claim and supporting documentation: _____

Limitations / unknowns: _____

- [ ] Check water availability and current land-manager or public-health advisories.
- [ ] Match documented protection to the expected source and hazards.
- [ ] Follow official do-not-drink advisories; do not treat chemical/fuel-contaminated or floodwater as ordinary backcountry water.
- [ ] Verify every required container, connector, cartridge and power source.
- [ ] Read product-specific operating, cleaning, temperature and storage instructions.
- [ ] For chemical treatment, record the exact label dose, contact time and conditions; do not guess.
- [ ] For UV treatment, confirm water-clarity, volume, power and full-cycle requirements.
- [ ] Keep untreated-water equipment separate from treated-water containers.
- [ ] Check product-specific freezing precautions and damage guidance.
- [ ] Save the instructions offline before departure.
- [ ] Identify a backup safe-water supply, confirmed refill or route-change plan.

Backup arrangement: _____

Person responsible for checking equipment: _____

Unresolved questions before departure: _____

Read the full guide for limitations and safety context. A filter or purifier label does not establish that every contaminated source is safe. This is a planning record, not universal treatment instructions. AI-assisted compilation; no product-testing claim.

References:

https://cdc.gov/drinking-water/prevention/water-treatment-hiking-camping-traveling.html

https://cascadedesigns.com/blogs/msr-gear-guides/water-filter-vs-water-purifier

MY NEXT ACTION

Task / person responsible: _____

Review date: _____ Completed date: _____