

## A Consumer Tool for Identifying Point of Use (POU) **Drinking Water Filters Certified to Reduce Lead**

### **POINT OF USE FILTERS**

Point of use, or POU, drinking water filters are used to remove impurities from water at the point that it is actually being used. Although there are others, the POU filters covered in this document are those used in filtration systems that are attached directly to water faucets, inserted into refrigerators for water dispensers and ice makers, or inserted into water pitchers and bottles.







Pitcher with Filter



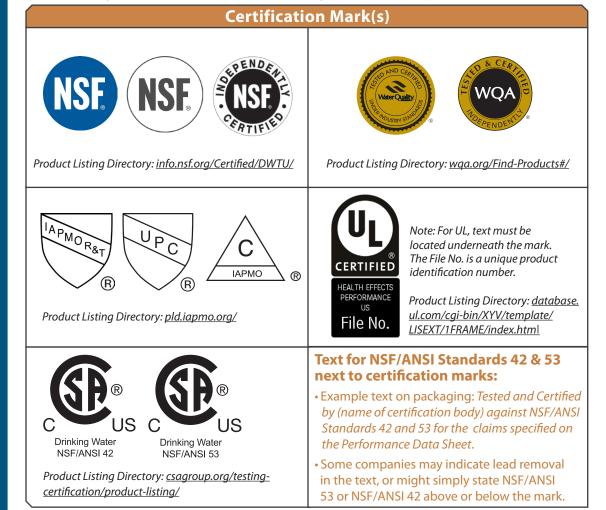


#### How do I know if a POU filter has been certified to reduce lead?

There are several American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited third-party certification bodies that evaluate POU drinking water filters for lead reduction. Each has a registered trademark that is used on certified products.

Certification bodies require their mark and a statement indicating testing against NSF/ANSI Standard 53 along with a claim of lead reduction. We recommend that you also look for filters tested against NSF/ANSI Standard 42 for particulate reduction (Class I)\*.

The table below provides the certification bodies' approved marks and the text that indicates a filter has been certified for lead reduction capabilities. Some filters can be certified by more than one certification body and have multiple certification marks.



#### Is certification required for POU drinking water filters?

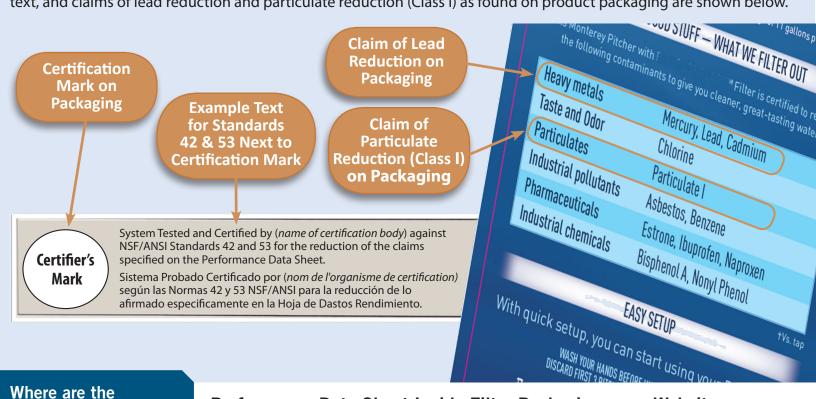
There is no mandatory federal requirement for the use of POU drinking water filters or for testing or third-party certification under the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, consumers can increase their level of confidence by purchasing filters that have been tested by an accredited third-party certification body or bodies for lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) capabilities against both NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53.

\*Although particulate reduction (Class I) is for aesthetic effects, it is being suggested since some particulates can contain lead.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only. Any mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute EPA endorsement or recommendation for use.

#### Certification Marks, Standards Text, and Claims of Reduction on Filter Packaging

Certification marks are detailed in the Table on Page 1. Examples of certification marks, NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text, and claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) as found on product packaging are shown below.



# Where are the certification marks and Standards text located?

The certification marks can be found on the filter or on the smallest container in which the filter is packaged. NSF/ANSI Standards 42 and 53 text will be located under or near a certification mark. If lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) are not specifically mentioned in the text, information can be found in a table on the packaging, on the performance data sheet located inside the filter packaging or on the manufacturer's website, or in the certifier's online product listing directory (see links in the table on Page 1).

Performance Data Sheet Inside Filter Packaging or on Websites

Claims of lead reduction and particulate reduction (Class I) not included on the filter packaging can typically be found on the performance data sheet located inside the filter box or other packaging (example below), or on the manufacturer's website.

Claim of Lead	SUBSTANCE	Overall Percent Reduction	Influent Challenge Concentration	U.S. EPA Level*/NSF Maximum Permissible Product Water Concentration
Reduction Claim of Particulate Reduction (Class I)	NSF/ANSI Standard 53 – Health Effects			
	Lead pH 6.5	99.5%	150±15 ppb	10 ppb
	Lead pH 8.5	99.6%	150±15 ppb	10 ppb
	Mercury pH 6.5	95.5%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
	Mercury pH 8.5	95.9%	6±0.6 ppb	2 ppb
	Cadmium pH 6.5	97.4%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
	Cadmium pH 8.5	99.2%	30±3 ppb	5 ppb
	Benzene	93.5%	15±1.5 ppb	5 ppb
	Asbestos	>99%	55000000±45000000 Fibers/L	99%*
	NSF/ANSI Standard 401 – Emerging Compounds/Incidental Contaminants			
	Bisphenol A <sup>†</sup>	95.5%	2000±400 ppt	300 ppt
	Estrone <sup>†</sup>	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
	Ibuprofen <sup>†</sup>	94.9%	400±80 ppt	60 ppt
	Naproxen <sup>†</sup>	96.4%	140±28 ppt	20 ppt
	Nonyl phenol <sup>†</sup>	93.5%	1400±280 ppt	200 ppt
	NSF/ANSI Standard 42 – Aesthetic Effects			
	Chlorine	97.4%	2.0+0.2 nph	50%*
	Particulate Reduction Class I	99.6%	>10000 particles/mL	85%*
	* NSF Minimum Percent Reduction Requirement. † Valid for the following systems: Ultramax Jet Black (0B24), Space Saver (0B21), Amalfi (0B32), Grand Color Series (0B36), Pacifica (0B41), Capri (0B43), Mini Plus (0B44), Marina (0B47), Monterey (0B50), and Wave (0B53). These systems have been tested according to NSF/ANSI 401 (for applicable systems), 42 and 53 for reduction of the substances listed. The concentration of each of the indicated substances in water entering the systems was reduced to a concentration less than or equal to the permissible limit for water leaving the systems, as specified in NSF/ANSI 401, 42 and 53.			

#### **Additional Information**

- EPA's Lead in Drinking Water Website: epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water
- Understanding NSF/ANSI Standard 53: workingpressuremag.com/understanding-nsf-ansi-53/

#### **Questions?**

- For questions about a filter: Contact the product manufacturer or see the product listing directories listed on the first page.
- For questions about this document: Send an email to <u>latham.michelle@epa.gov</u> or <u>shah.manthan@epa.gov</u>.