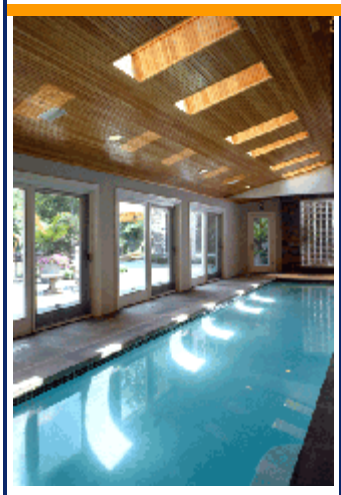
BOWA Builders, Inc.

HOME ADVISOR

Dear Friend,

Each month, BOWA Home Advisor provides you with important tips on how to improve and protect your home's value. We hope the following is helpful.



Is your water doing more harm than good?

Did you know the average person uses 80-100 gallons of water each day for drinking, cooking, bathing, cleaning and laundering? For the sake of your family's health and your home's systems, it is in your best interest to ensure this water is purified and free from harmful contaminants.

Because public utility water is regulated by the EPA and individual states, consumers of water supplied from a municipality can be quite confident that their water quality meets specific health guidelines. However, very few regulations exist to govern the quality of private-well water supplies. Those on private well systems are responsible for their own water filtration and purification. This entails removing sediment from the lines, neutralizing contaminants and reducing harmful chemicals.

Regardless of whether you are on a private well system or using municipal water, it is a good idea to test your home's water every two to three years. This will help to identify microbiological, inorganic and chemical contaminants that can lead to serious health affects over the long term. Over time, water contaminants can also cause your appliances to break down and your plumbing to decay, creating yet another health risk.

Based on the results of a professional or in-home water test, you can determine what type of home water purification system is best for your particular needs.

Some common water purifications options include: *

- Water pitchers or carafes: These allow you to directly pour water into them, then wait while the water runs through a filter. While pitchers are cost effective, they take up considerable room in the refrigerator and are

not good for processing large volumes of water.

- At-The-Tap systems: These models are faucet attachments that convert tap water directly into filtered water. Also a cost-efficient method, they provide filtered water with just a knob turn, and are fairly easy to install. However, they tend to stand out from the home's decor and provide a very slow flow rate.

- Filtering faucet systems: One of the most recent introductions, these single-unit faucets have filters built directly into the faucet. While the initial cost is a bit more than the previous options, these convenient systems are more stylish and usually include a visual indicator to let you know when its filter needs to be replaced. The filters tend to be easy to change, as they are often located right in the spout.

- Undermount systems: These models connect directly to the water supply lines and fit under the sink in the kitchen or bathroom. These systems often feature larger, longer-lasting filters that are said to filter out more impurities and allow a faster flow of filtered water. However, you have to go under the sink to change the filters, and the system requires installing a separate (often generic looking) water spigot.

- Whole-house conditioning systems: A whole-house water treatment system uses various components to treat different water problems at the point of entry. A sediment filter may be installed to remove clay, silt and other sediment common in well and city water to varying degrees. If water is acidic a neutralizer can be used to prevent pipe corrosion, as this can be costly and cause health issues in the long term. Hard water can be addressed with a softener to reduce calcium and other harmful contaminants. For aesthetic issues, such as taste and odor, a carbon block filter can help to remove chlorine, organic compounds and contaminants. Additional components are available to address other issues, such as iron, sulphur, lead or microbial contaminants. If you choose, a point-of-use unit can be used to further processes drinking and cooking water. These combined systems, which provide a very high level of filtration and achieve one of the highest levels of mineral and bacteria filtration, produce filtered water for drinking, bathing, laundering and cleaning. However, a whole-house system can be rather costly, requires more maintenance than other systems and can waste water in the treatment process.

If you have specific questions regarding whole-house conditioning systems, please contact BOWA's Customer Service Team for assistance.

	* Some details of the system descriptions were excerpted from National Sanitation Foundation.

For your conveneince, past issues of the *BOWA Home Advisor*, are available in the 'About Us' section of our web site.

If you would like more information on any of these topics or if there are other ways we can be of service, please contact BOWA Builders.

Regards.

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P.S. Have a specific issue you would like addressed in a future BOWA Home Advisor? Please let me know.