

5 Household water treatment & safe storage - Water filtering

5.2 Types of filters



Top photo: Table top filter, safi partly produced in Malawi.

Bottom photo left: Asian Table top filter including a mineral pot.

Bottom photo right: tulip siphon filter.

Description:

Another option for treatment are water filters. In the last years new lower cost filters entered the market in Malawi.

Advantage compared to Chlorine:

- Good quality filters do eliminate Cryptosporidium;
- Filters do not give a taste or smell like chlorine so people like it better;
- In general the consistence of use of filters is much higher than Chlorine. Once people are used to take water from a filter they will do that daily.

Disadvantage compared to chlorine:

- High upfront cost;
- Not yet available everywhere, since it is still new, the supply chain needs to develop more;
- The Siphon model is more complicated than the table top model, so needs more training in maintenance.

Information:

- Filters remove germs in a mechanical way, no chemicals or additives are used.
- Filters like safi model and sulip siphon filters comply with the WHO standards for bacteria and protozoa (removal 99.995 %).
- Filter elements last for 1 to 1.5 years, after that they need replacement.
- Table top filters like the Asian model have a filter capacity of 25 - 30 litres. The safi filter is 50 litres per day. The siphon model is 100 litres per day.
- Cost: Safi filter ca **USD 18; filter elements ca USD 7.**
- Cost: Asian filters **USD 40 - 100.**
- Producers: Info at all SMART Centres.