



Build a water filter

Do not have a filter on you? No problem – create a makeshift water filter by using naturally available materials.

You will need:

- 1 An empty plastic water bottle, plastic bag or inner tube (etc)
- 2 Some sand
- 3 Pebbles
- 4 Charcoal. You can use the burnt pieces of wood from your campfire.
- 5 Rope.
- 6 Pieces of cloth.
- 7 Knife

Instructions

Cut the lower end of the plastic bottle and invert it. Tie it up with a rope or a thin branch so that it holds its conical shape. Now begin to layer the bottle or bark in the following order – pebbles, cloth, sand, cloth, charcoal, cloth, sand, pebbles.

Pass water through a piece of cloth to remove large particles and then pass it through your self-built filter. The charcoal absorbs many harmful chemicals and makes the water safer for drinking. Note that charcoal does not kill bacteria and viruses. Hence, you will have to boil the water after filtering it. Practice making such a filter on camping trips so that you get the hang of it.

Note: Charcoal is activated carbon, a chief constituent of many commercially available filters. A single pound of this substance has a surface area of 100 acres! Charcoal is effective in trapping sediment, volatile organic compounds and chlorine. It also removes foul taste and odour from water. Charcoal does not remove salts and minerals that are dissolved in the water.

