

POU water filters information leaflets

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Point of use (POU) Water Filters

Information for Patients and Visitors

Why are these filters being used?

Occasionally, microorganisms can develop in water systems, including those in hospitals. POU Water filters can provide an extra layer of protection for vulnerable patients. POU water filters stop potentially harmful microorganisms from coming out of hot or cold taps and shower water.

What are the filters for?

They are fitted to taps and showers to reduce the risk of infection from waterborne bacteria.

They are commonly used in areas with patients who are more vulnerable to infections (for example, ICU, oncology, neonatal).

Is it safe to use filtered water?

Yes. The filters are rigorously tested and safe for:

- drinking
- brushing teeth
- washing
- bathing

Do I need to do anything?

Do not tamper with the POU water filter and avoid touching it when washing your hands.

No action is needed from patients or visitors. If you notice a filter is loose or leaking, please inform a member of staff.

Point of use (POU) Water Filters

Information for Staff

Purpose of POU water filters:

To protect patients by filtering out bacteria that may be present in the water supply at the point of use.

What you should do:

Do not remove or tamper with the filters.

Check daily that the filters are:

- securely attached
- not visibly damaged
- within the labelled date of use
- not passed replacement date

Report any issues immediately to Estates or IPC.

See Daily Checklist

Cleaning:

Filter should be cleaned in line with manufacturer's instructions or local SOPs.

External cleaning of taps/showers may be done as normal, avoiding contact with the filter outlet.

For any concerns or questions:

Infection Prevention and Control Team: [Phone/Email]

Estates Helpdesk: [Phone/Email]