

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What are Water Treatment Devices?***

"Water Treatment Device (WTD)" means any point-of-use or point-of-entry instrument or contrivance sold or offered for rental or lease for residential use, and designed to be added to the plumbing system, or used without being connected to the plumbing of a water supply intended for human consumption in order to improve the water supply by any means, including, but not limited to, filtration, distillation, adsorption, ion exchange, reverse osmosis, or other treatment (Health & Safety Code (HSC) §116825(a)). WTD does not include any bottled, vended, hauled, and processed water-related device that is regulated pursuant to HSC Article 12 (commencing with §111070) of Chapter 5 of Part 5.

### ***What kind of water treatment devices need to be registered?***

Any water treatment device(s) that has health or safety benefit claim(s) should be registered to be sold in California. "Health or Safety claim" means any claim that the water treatment device will remove or reduce a primary contaminant (HSC §116825(e)) such as any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substances or matter in water (HSC §116275(a)). California's WTDs Registration Program regulates only those WTDs for which health and safety benefit claims are made.

### ***Who is required to register for water treatment devices?***

The manufacturer should register the device with WTDs Registration Program for their marketing in California. Legally, a manufacturer cannot market or sell WTDs in the State of California without the registration.

"Manufacturer" means any of the following: (1) A person that makes, converts, constructs, or produces water treatment devices for the purposes of sale, lease, or rental to individuals, corporations, associations, or other entities. (2) A person that assembles water treatment devices or treatment components from components manufactured by another entity. (3) A person that adds its own product name or product identification to water treatment devices or treatment components that have been manufactured or assembled by another entity (HSC §116825(f)).

### ***Should water treatment devices must contain lead free plumbing components?***

Yes. California law prohibits the use of, and introduction into commerce of any pipe, pipe or plumbing fitting, or fixture, such as kitchen faucets, bathroom faucets, and any other end-use devices, intended to convey or dispense water for human consumption through drinking or cooking that is not lead free. Therefore, plumbing components must be lead-free although. The materials for plumbing are not directly regulated by WTDs Registration Program. More information can be found here: California HSC §116875.

### ***Do WTDs that reduce hardness, odor, and appearance need to be registered?***

No. The device(s) for which only an aesthetic benefit is claimed such as chlorine reduction, elimination of bad taste and/or odor is not applicable to our registration program. The device models certified for NSF/ANSI Standard 42 (testing for aesthetic effect ONLY) is not applicable to our Water Treatment Devices Registration Program. If the device(s) which makes a health and safety claim(s) along with the aesthetic benefits shall be registered.

***Are commercial water treatment devices required to be registered?***

No. We do not have Commercial WTDs Registration Program. While the registration requirement does not apply to “commercial” water treatment devices, the regulations for point-of-use/point-of-entry may apply if a public water system chooses to implement a point-of-use or point-of-entry program. See below information:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/regulations/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/regulations/)

***Does the replacement element (component) need to be registered in CA with WTD Registration Program?***

No. The replacement element does not need to be separately registered, although we maintain the information for the replacement element in our database. The device’s Performance Data Sheet (PDS) usually identifies the replacement element, and the certifying organization identifies the replacement element as part of the device certification. The replacement element can be sold separately in the marketplace because the replacement element is typically used with the device that it is certified and registered with. If the replacement element is used with a device that is not registered with us yet, then the manufacturer needs to register that device with us.

***How does the Residential WTDs Registration Program work?***

The goal of our program is to ensure that devices sold in California have been independently evaluated and tested to reduce or remove 'health-related' contaminants as claimed by the packaging. We do so by checking that the device has a proper certification done by ANSI-accredited certifying organizations, such as NSF, WQA, or IAPMO, etc. The certification step(s) ensures the contaminant reduction performance along with the materials, design, fabrication quality, and structural integrity of the water treatment device. If an application comes with certification from other than then 3 well known certifying bodies, we may ask for more documentation to verify that the certifying organization is truly ANSI-accredited. We also monitor the marketplace in California for fraudulent contaminant reduction claims by vendors of WTDs.

***What are the requirements for new devices registration?***

For a new device(s) registration, please follow the instructions on the application form which includes: complete application, verification of certification by an ANSI-accredited certification organization, Product Worksheet (owner’s manual and link to the website), Performance Data Sheet (PDS), and \$350 registration fee per device model.

***Where can manufacturers get certification on their device(s)?***

Water treatment devices for which health and safety claims are made must be certified by independent ANSI-accredited certifying organizations such as NSF, WQA, IAPMO, etc. The State Water Resources Control Board does not certify and test devices.

***Is the California registration number required to be on the water treatment device(s) packaging?***

No. The California registration number is not required to be on the device or its packaging. There are other product labeling requirements applicable to devices registered in California, however. Please see the Information on “upcoming product labeling requirement” posted on our

webpage here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/device/wtd\\_manufacturers.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/wtd_manufacturers.html)

***Is there another registration program if a manufacturer sells outside of the California?***

You will need to check with that specific state's requirements.

***Where can you check the list of devices that have been registered?***

We send a confirmation letter once registration is complete. Within 1-2 weeks we update the online listing reflecting the new registered device models on our webpage. Below is the link where you can check all registered devices with WTD registration program: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.shtml) and find the list under "Current Listing of Registered Devices."

***How often the list of registered devices gets updated on the website?***

We typically update the list whenever a new device is registered or removed. In any case the list is always updated at least once per month.

***How long does the registration process typically take?***

Usually, the registration process requires between 4-6 weeks. The timing for registration depends on completeness of the application and internal processing time required.

***How to pay if submitting multiple applications for different device models?***

Payment can be one check with one lump sum. There is no need for an individual check per device model.

***What is the current registration fee?***

The current registration fee is \$350 for each separate device model.

***What are the methods to pay for the registration fee?***

Please make checks payable to "Device Program Fees Fund Number 0129". The mailing address of WTD devices program is: State Water Resources Control Board, ATTN: Device Program Fees – 0129, P.O. Box 1888, Sacramento, CA 95812-1888. Please clearly identify which models your payment covers.

Electronic funds can be transferred for online payment option. You can access the information here: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make\\_a\\_payment/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make_a_payment/). Once you click on the link to initiate the ACH Debit Transfer, you can select "Application Fees" and follow the instruction for creating an invoice number for "Water Devices Application." If this does not work for you, the check is the only other payment we accept.

***When are water treatment devices renewed?***

Registration must be renewed annually and is valid for the calendar year (Jan 1 - Dec 31). There is no-prorating or partial assessment of the billing. We send out renewal notices by the end of the year. If a device is not renewed, it is dropped out of the "current listing of registered devices." And can no longer be marketed in California with health-related contaminant reduction claims.

***Does the WTDs registration program sends out invoices for the annual renewal?***

We send renewal notices in the first quarter of each year; however, it is the responsibility of the manufacturers or their representatives to ensure that the registration remains current.

***What if the manufacturer decides not to register with WTDs registration program while marketing in California?***

WTDs Residential Program Staff will typically contact the manufacturer to inform its responsibility to comply with the State law (to register its device). If the manufacturer has no intent to register in California, WTDs Residential Program Staff will request the seller to pull off their items from the marketplace.

***What are the penalties for violations of the California Registration requirements?***

HSC §116840(c) states that “any person, corporation, firm, partnership, joint stock company, or any other association or organization that violates any provision of this article shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation. Where the conduct constituting a violation is of a continuing nature, each day of the conduct is a separate and distinct violation. The civil penalty shall be assessed and recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the people of the State of California by the Attorney General, or by any district attorney, county counsel, or city attorney in any court of competent jurisdiction”.