

Safe Well Water RI

Trusted, expert information

Tip Sheet 23



“Tip sheets helped us learn about our well water.”

Get Tip Sheets at www.rivelltesting.org:

- 14 Tip Sheets about harmful substances
- 10 Tip Sheets about treatment choices
- 3 Tip Sheets about other topics of concern

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Look for the NSF seal on water treatment devices.

NSF International is a non-profit group that sets performance standards for water treatment devices. Learn about NSF here: www.nsf.org

Ozone Water Treatment Systems

Test and talk before you treat!

Use a State-certified testing lab. Find a list of certified labs here: www.health.ri.gov/find/labs/privatewelltesting.

Call and talk with a State water quality expert. We can review your water test results with you and suggest ways to treat problems.

- » University of Rhode Island Water Quality Program
Direct line to water expert: 401-874-5398
- » Rhode Island Department of Health
Ask for the Private Well Program: 401-222-5960

If you decide to buy a treatment system, work with a water treatment professional. They can help design a system to fit your needs. Before you buy a system, get a least 3 price quotes. Learn the questions to ask. See Tip Sheet 16.

CAUTION: Be aware that sometimes more than one system is needed to treat water. Consider whether using an alternative water supply such as putting in a new well, using public water if available, or using bottled water may be a better long-run solution.

When would I need an ozone water treatment system?

Can be used to treat:

- ▶ Disease-causing germs (bacteria and viruses)
- ▶ Harmful chemicals like benzene (used in gasoline)
- ▶ Some color, taste, and odor problems
- ▶ Cloudy (turbid) water



How ozone systems work

An ozone treatment system is a whole-house system, meaning that it treats all the water coming into the house.

Ozone is a chemical form of pure oxygen which works well to disinfect water.

Issues to think about before buying an ozone treatment system

- ▶ **High energy use:** Ozone systems use a lot of energy.
- ▶ **Harmful by-products:** Ozone systems can produce harmful by-products in drinking water. Example: If bromide is present in the raw water, ozone reacts with it to form bromate, shown to cause cancer in rats.
- ▶ **Routine maintenance:** All treatment systems must be properly maintained. Ozone systems require extra attention.
- ▶ **Plumbing changes:** Changes may be required to household plumbing that may add extra costs to the purchase price.

If I have an ozone treatment system, how do I maintain it?

All water treatment systems must be maintained according to the instructions that come with the unit. As noted above, this is especially important with an ozone system.

- **Keep all paperwork and instructions** that come with the unit.
- **Keep records and receipts** of equipment maintenance and repairs.

What else do I need to know about an ozone treatment system?

- Make sure it's installed and operated according to instructions.
- Make sure it works. After installing the system, have your water tested at a State-certified lab.