

	Boiling	Ultraviolet Radiation	Solar Pastuerization	Chemical Treatment	Filtration
Equipment required?	Heat source, heat proof container	UV light designed for such purposes, batteries	Clear containers, dark surface, warm and sunny day	Chemical tablets or drops (Usually chlorine, iodine, or chorine dioxide)	Filter cartridge and apparatus
Required Cost to use?	Negligible	\$70-\$150, depending on brand and model	Negligible	A few dollars	\$15-\$400, depending on brand and model
Time required to purify a pint, from start to drink	4 - 10 minutes to reach a boil, plus time to cool to desired temperature	less than a minute	1-16 hours, depending on the weather	Ranges from 15 minutes to 4 hours, depending on clarity of water	few minutes
Disables...					
Viruses?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (15 - 30 minutes)	No
Bacteria?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (15 - 30 minutes)	Some
Protozoa?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (up to 4 hours)	Yes
Removes other harmful materials?	No	No	No; may actually leach harmful materials	No; may actually add harmful chemicals	Yes, but the amount depends on the filter
Taste impact?	May taste flat	No	May take on taste of container after hours of baking in the sun	Depends chemical, but usually a chemical taste is how you know you've used enough	Generally no, but depends on the filter
Sustainability rating	Long term	Short term	Long term	Short term	Intermediate term
Mobility	Intermediate	High	Low	High	High for Suction and Pump filter; Intermediate for Gravity filter
Ease of use	Intermediate	High	High	High	High for Suction and Gravity filters; Intermediate for Pump filters
Reliability	High	High with batteries Zero without	More time = More reliable	High	High for Suction and Gravity filters; Intermediate with Pump filters
Best Advantage?	Reliability	Fast	Low tech	Continues to purify after treatment	<i>Removes</i> contaminants
Worst Disadvantage?	Heat source requirement	Eats batteries like crazy!	Takes a lot of time	Limited Supply can be used up quickly	Should be coupled with another method