

Contact: Dave Loveday
Water Quality Association
International Headquarters & Laboratory
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
Email: media@wqa.org
Telephone: 630 505 0160
Facsimile: 630 505 9637



WQA AQUATECH USA PRESS RELEASE

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To fight chromium, homeowners can find certified products and professionals

Independently tested systems to reduce contamination available to consumers

Lisle, Illinois USA — Homeowners can learn about home-based products that have been independently tested to fight harmful chromium in their water, the Water Quality Association said today.

In light of a report today showing hexavalent chromium in water supplies across the nation, concerned consumers are urged to learn more at wqa.org. WQA is a not-for-profit association that tests products following guidelines developed by ANSI/NSF, the most respected standards-development agency in the nation.

According to reports, the Environmental Working Group has found hexavalent chromium in the water of cities throughout America. The amount in 25 of the 35 cities tested, exceeded a recent “public health goal” level that the state of California is considering. This type of chromium is widely considered a probable carcinogen.

“This report is one more piece of evidence to consumers that final barrier technology should be utilized to provide a sense of confidence for their families’ water,” said Peter J. Censky, executive director of WQA.

WQA certifies reverse osmosis (RO) systems that reduce hexavalent chromium. It is also known that distillation and anion exchange methods are effective.

WQA’s Gold Seal program provides product certification that utilizes a scientific method for consumers to ensure the effectiveness of the devices they purchase. Those interested should visit wqa.org, click on Gold Seal, and search by contaminant – hexavalent chromium.

Consumers should also check with individual manufacturers to learn what specific reduction levels different products offer. This will ensure they are finding products that best serve their particular needs.

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In addition, consumers can find locally certified dealers by visiting WQA's Find-A-Water Professional feature. Dealers are certified through rigorous study and testing. More information about contaminants is also available at WQA's Water Information Library, which includes a search function.

WQA also offers a series of "Technical Applications Bulletins," offering information on treating specific contaminants, including chromium. This is also available online at wqa.org. According to the bulletin, hexavalent chromium is considered a health risk that can cause cancer, as well as nausea, ulcers, kidney and liver damage, and other ill effects.

For more information from WQA, contact David Loveday, director of communications, or Pauli Undesser, technical director, at 630 505 0160.

WQA is a not-for-profit association that provides public information about water treatment issues and also trains and certifies professionals to better serve consumers. WQA has more than 2,500 members internationally.

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