MAKING A WATER FILTER AT HOME

A simple bottle filter to clear cloudy water before you make it safe.

⚠ **This only makes water clearer. It does not remove the germs that make you ill.** Always boil the water or treat it with tablets afterwards (W1). Never use flood water.

THE LAYERS, TOP TO BOTTOM

↓ DIRTY WATER IN

Gravel	Coarse – catches leaves and grit
Coarse sand	Catches smaller bits
Fine sand	Catches fine silt
Charcoal	Activated if you can – helps taste and smell
Cloth	Cotton or a coffee filter over the neck

↓ CLEARER WATER OUT – STILL NOT SAFE

Why bother? Clearing cloudy water first means your proper filter clogs less, and tablets work better in clear water.

HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Cut the bottom off a 2-litre plastic bottle. Turn it upside down, cap off, over a clean container.
2. Push a clean cloth or coffee filter into the neck.
3. Add the layers from the bottom up: charcoal, fine sand, coarse sand, gravel. Rinse the sand and gravel first.
4. Pour water in slowly. Throw away the first few runs until it comes out clear.
5. **Now make it safe:** boil it, or use purification tablets (W1).

YOU'LL NEED

A 2-litre plastic bottle, a clean cloth or coffee filter, gravel, coarse and fine sand, charcoal (activated charcoal from a pet or aquarium shop works best), a knife, and a clean container.

Practise it. A good one to build with children: try it with pond water and compare the jars before and after. Then pour it away.

Important. General guidance, not professional advice. In an emergency, call 999 and follow the emergency services and local authorities. Water safety advice from the NHS and the Drinking Water Inspectorate.