

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 and Safety Code \(HSC\) §116825\(a\)](#)). WTD does not include any bottled, vended, hauled, and processed water-related device that is regulated pursuant to Part 5 Chapter 5 [Article 12 \(commencing with §111070\)](#) of HSC.

What kind of water treatment devices need to be registered?

Any water treatment device that has health or safety benefit claims 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 WTD Registration Program regulates only those WTDs for which health and/or safety benefit claims are made.

Who is required to register for water treatment devices?

The manufacturer should register the device with WTD 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 WTD Registration Program. More information can be found at:

[Lead Materials Regulations](#)

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=HSC&division=104.&title=&part=12.&chapter=5.&article=4

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

No. The device 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 which makes health and safety claims along with the aesthetic benefits shall be registered.

Are commercial water treatment devices required to be registered in California?

No. We do not have commercial WTD 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 in the event that a public water system chooses to implement a point of use or point of entry devices. More information can be found at:

[Point of Use/Point of Entry Regulations](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/regulations/)

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Does the replacement element (component) need to be registered in California?

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.

How does the Residential WTD 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. The certification steps ensure the contaminant reduction performance along with the materials, design, fabrication quality, and structural integrity of the water treatment device. 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 WTD.

What are the requirements for new devices registration?

For a new device registration, please follow the instructions in 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), PDS, and \$350 registration fee per device model.

Where can manufacturers get certification on their devices?

Water treatment devices for which health and safety claims are made must be certified by independent ANSI-accredited certifying organizations. The State Water Board does not certify and test devices.

Is the California registration number required to be on the water treatment device packaging?

No. The California registration number is not required to be on the device or its packaging. However, there are other product labeling requirements applicable to devices registered in California. For the details, please see “Information on Product Labeling Requirements” posted on our webpage at:

[Residential WTD Information for Manufacturers](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 to 2 weeks we update the online listing reflecting the new registered device models on our webpage. Below is the link to the list of all registered devices with WTD Registration Program:

[Residential WTD Information for Consumers](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.shtml)

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/device/watertreatmentdevices.shtml.

The list can be found 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 to 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 for check 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 at:

[Electronic Funds Transfer Payment](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 payment option you can currently choose.

When are water treatment devices renewed?

Registration must be renewed annually and is valid for the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). There is no prorating or partial assessment of the billing. We send out renewal notice by the end of the year. If a device is not renewed, it gets 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 WTD 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 sells or markets unregistered products in California?

WTD Registration Program staff will typically contact the manufacturer to inform of its responsibility to comply with the state law to register its device. If the manufacturer has no intent to register in California, WTD Registration Program staff will request the seller that the item is pulled off from the marketplace.

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

[HSC section 116840](#) states that violation of the requirements including registering shall be liable for a civil penalty up to \$5,000 for each violation. When the violation is of a continuing nature, each day of the violation counts as a separate and distinct violation (as an example it can be assessed up to \$5,000 per day and is cumulative). The civil penalty will 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.