

Seek professional advice to make water safe for drinking and cooking by having an effective pump, filter, and disinfection system.

Step

1

Ask a professional to advise you when installing or maintaining your home's pump, filter, or disinfection system because local conditions can vary.

- Rural Community Assistance Corporation – Call (916) 447-2854 and ask for the "specialist in small water filtration systems."
- California Rural Water – Call (916) 553-4900 and ask for technical assistance.

Step

2

Confirm treatment works by taking your water to a lab for testing multiple times a year. Ask your local health department for a list of certified labs.

Consider getting four or more neighbors to share equipment and the cost of taking Steps 1 and 2. To talk with a professional or find out about a loan, contact:

- Rural Community Assistance Corporation – Call (530) 692-9625 and ask for a loan officer.
- California Rural Water – Call (916) 553-4900 and request training.
- If there are 5 connections to 14 connections, please contact the Lake County Environmental Health Division for a State Small Water Permit at (707) 263-1164.

For more information contact:
Public Health (707) 263-1090
Special Districts (707) 263-0119



The California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Investigations Branch provided technical assistance for this material



SWRCBGraphic-CS-TA-2020

INFORMATION FOR LAKE COUNTY HOMEOWNERS

Drinking tap water from lakes, rivers, or streams can make you sick.

If your water is directly from a private or small system from a lake, creek, or stream, it may not be safe to cook with or drink. Water is only safe for drinking or cooking if you buy it from a store or follow the steps in this brochure to ensure it is treated properly.

KEEP BABIES SAFE:

Always use store-bought water to make infant formula

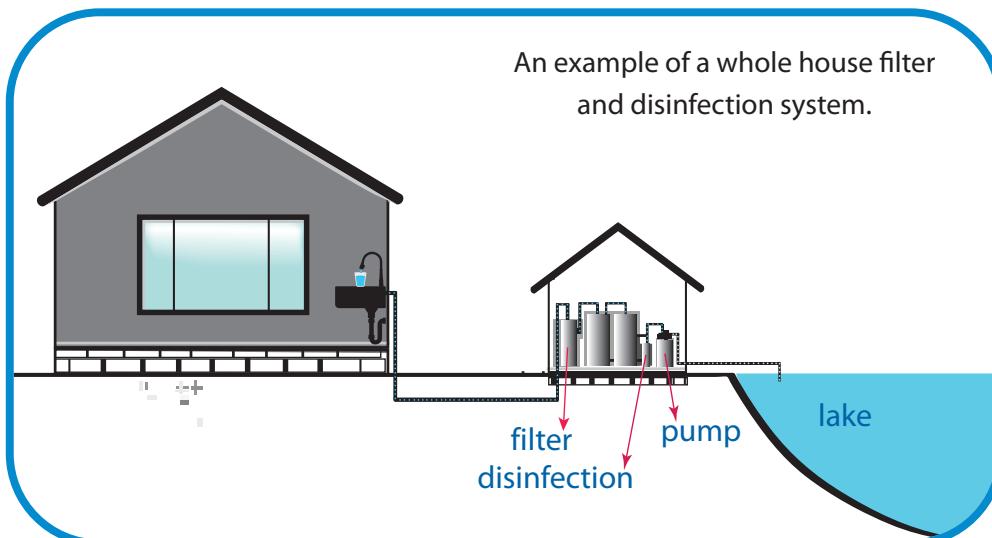


Information for Owners and renters when their homes receive water from a lake, river or stream

Drinking Water

Homes that receive water directly from lakes, rivers, or streams must be **filtered** and **disinfected** to make it safe for drinking and cooking.

- **Filtering** removes dirt from the water.
- **Disinfecting** cleans the water, killing almost anything that can make you sick.
- Because of cyanobacteria blooms, use of a water pitcher filter and/or boiling water does not always make water safe for drinking and cooking.
- A whole house treatment system, with an in-line **filter** (maximum 1 micron, μm) and **disinfection** component for pumped water will be your best solution for long-term water use (image below).



Sickness

Drinking water received from a lake, river, or stream that is not filtered or disinfected can cause:

Nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, headache, sore throat, dry cough, blistering around the mouth, pneumonia, yellow color of the skin or eyes

If you experience any of these symptoms, see your health care provider.

Safer Water

You should only cook and drink with water that is:

- Taken far away from cyanobacteria blooms (described below)
- Pumped through a filter and disinfected
- Confirmed safe by taking your water to a lab for testing (see Step 2, back page)

Cyanobacteria Blooms

Cyanobacteria or Blue-Green Algae can produce toxins that can make you and your pets sick when drinking contaminated water.

These are sometimes called Harmful Algal Blooms or HABs.

Specialized treatment systems are needed to protect against toxins from cyanobacteria. It's best to consult with a professional that is familiar with local conditions. To find out where blooms are occurring in your area, check the online map on bvbrancheria.com/clearlakecyanotoxins.

For more information about cyanobacteria and Clear Lake, you can contact the [County of Lake Water Resources](#) Department at (707) 263-2344.

Drink and cook with water bought in a store if your water is not safe.