

1st Merrickville Scout Troop



Water Purification Fact Sheet

Main contaminants of concern in Canada

- Bacteria (e.g. E.coli)
- Giardia lamblia (Beaver fever)
- Cryptosporidium

Boiling

- 3 minutes.
- Most effective and economical, but uses a lot of fuel on long trips.

Filtering

- Check filter size. 0.2 microns is preferable.
- Initially more expensive, but no chemicals required.
- E.g. Katadyn, MSR.

Bleach

- 8 drops per quart.
- Contact time 30 minutes.
- Produces nasty chemicals if water is not clear.
- Affected by pH and clarity of water.

Chlorine Dioxide (liquid)

- Two liquids that must be pre-mixed together for 5 minutes.
- Contact time 1 to 3 hours.
- E.g. Pristine Chemical Water Treatment.

Chlorine Dioxide (tablets)

- Contact time 30 minutes to 4 hours.
- E.g. Katadyn Micropur.

Iodine

- Tablets, crystals.
- Harmful for prolonged use, especially if pregnant.
- Temperature dependant.
- Does not kill Cryptosporidium.
- E.g. Potable Aqua, Polar Pure