

Definitions of Steps in the Water-Treatment Process

Term	Definition
Disinfection	After you remove all of the big, harmful stuff you can see, you need to remove harmful stuff you can't see, like germs. Water is disinfected using different methods, such as adding chemicals.
Coagulation	Alum and other chemicals are added to the water, forming "floc," which are tiny particles that dirt in the water sticks to like glue. Coagulation is important because the dirt forms into big clumps, heavy enough to sink to the bottom.
Filtration	Water flows through a material in order to catch the smallest pieces of dirt. The material removes the dirt from the water by allowing the water to pass through, but not the dirt. For example, when adults make coffee they use a filter to catch the grounds. The water can pass through the filter but the grounds cannot.
Sedimentation	Water travels through a tank and gravity causes clumps of dirt to fall to the bottom. The dirt is removed from the water because the water continues to flow, while the dirt remains at the bottom of the tank.