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## Press release

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# Water treatment options available for Crestwood contamination issues

## Tested home products shown to remove targeted agents

Lisle, Illinois -- Proven home treatment devices are available to remove the kinds of contaminants recently revealed to have been in the Crestwood, Illinois, water system.

Through its independent testing laboratory, the Water Quality Association provides information on devices that have gone through rigorous studies to remove these agents. WQA tests products using NSF/ANSI-approved standards.

Home treatment devices using carbon filter technology will remove perchloroethylene, or PCE, which is believed to cause cancer and liver damage. PCE had been in the drinking water of Crestwood's system for decades, according to a study by the Chicago Tribune.

"Part of the unfortunate aspect of stories like this is that we know there are cost-effective ways to get these contaminants out of the water," said Thomas Palkon, director of product certification for WQA.

On its Web site, [wqa.org](http://wqa.org), WQA lists products that have been shown to be effective for removing PCE and other contaminants. For example, activated carbon filter products and reverse osmosis (R.O.) with carbon filters, and certain distillation products can take out PCEs.

Palkon noted that not all products completely eliminate every element, but significant reductions are possible. Filtering systems inside the home provide the highest technologies available for treating drinking water, he said.

Less than two percent of all water consumed is ingested by humans, making these "point-of-use" systems the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly. While utilities are required to meet safety standards set by the U.S. EPA, home filtering systems act as a final contaminant barrier and can further purify water for drinking.

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“As we have seen in this case, even those ingesting water from municipal systems may be at risk,” Palkon said.

Additionally, Palkon emphasized, even water that meets EPA standards is not necessarily as free of contaminants as possible. In setting standards, EPA considers whether it is feasible for municipalities to thoroughly treat every element. As a result, the agency allows some contaminants to be present in municipal water. However, EPA also offers ideal goals for water with much lower danger levels. Information is available at [epa.gov](http://epa.gov). For a copy of the WQA Safe Drink Water Act information booklet, visit [wqa.org](http://wqa.org).

“That is why home treatment can be so crucial,” Palkon said. “These devices help people ensure that their water is as close to the ideal goals as possible.”

*The Water Quality Association is a not-for-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. Its membership consists of both manufacturers as well as dealers/distributors of equipment. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.*