What can a Carbon Block Filter remove?

Chlorine

Activated carbon filters are commonly used to remove chlorine from drinking water. Chlorine is used to kill bacteria and viruses in water and make it potable, but it gives water an unpleasant swimming pool taste and odour. Activated carbon filters can reduce at least 90% free chlorine, as well as the unpleasant tastes and odours associated with chlorine in water.

Herbicides

Herbicides are used to control weeds and increase the production of desired crops in agriculture. These chemicals can potentially end up in local water supplies. Activated carbon can reduce a wide range of common herbicides in tap water, including glyphosate (Roundup), atrazine and 2,4-D weedkiller.

Pesticides

Pesticides are used to control pests in agriculture or native bush. Pesticides can leach into surface water and groundwater supplies through soil seepage and surface water runoff. Activated carbon filters can remove many common pesticides including lindane, chlordecone, heptachlor, and chlordane.

VOCs

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs for short) are organic chemicals that get into drinking water through industrial and household waste, leaks and spills. There are hundreds of VOCs. Activated carbon filters can't remove all of them, but they are effective in reducing some of the most common VOCs, including formaldehyde, benzene, tetrachloroethylene, and methylene chloride.

Phosphate

Phosphates, commonly used in fertilizer can potentially leach into groundwater. Activated carbon is considered relatively effective at reducing phosphate in water, with studies showing up to 50% phosphate removal.

What a Carbon Water Filter CAN'T Remove

Fluoride Activated carbon filters can't reduce fluoride in drinking water.

Minerals And Salts

Most of the healthy minerals and salts are retained in water filtered by activated carbon.

Water Hardness

Calcium and magnesium minerals contribute to water hardness. A carbon water filter can't remove these minerals. To treat water hardness you need a water softener.

Heavy Metals

Activated carbon filters can help reduce heavy metals in drinking water. However heavy metals are not adsorbed by the activated carbon, but rather are physically filtered out.

Micro-organisms

Micro-organisms like bacteria and viruses are small enough to slip through the pores of an activated carbon water filter. Post treatment, such as Ultraviolet irradiation, is required to inactivate the micro-organisms.

Sediment

Sediment in water will rapidly blind an activated carbon filter. The water needs to be prefiltered to eliminate the sediment.