

## INFORMATION ABOUT WATER FILTRATION

The following information on water filtration is provided at the request from homeowners at the September 18 HOA Board meeting. The purpose is to give homeowners some initial information so that each can research and make appropriate choices for their family and Zion Ridge home. The information is only a starting point. Ultimately each homeowner must do their own research in order to make the best decision based on their preferences. Currently, many (not all) homeowners have some type of in-home water filtration. These vary from single stage sediment filtration to multistage filtration. Homeowners are not required to filter water in their home, but can choose to install some level of filtration.

The information provided is not advice, but rather an effort to give some focus and help in doing the research for your individual preferences and needs. The choices concerning home water filtration include at least the following:

- Water testing
- Type of filtration
- Homeowner preferences
- Minerals
- Sediment
- Safety
- Professional advice

### **Water Testing -**

Any choice for a water filtration system is best done using the results obtained from a water test. Water tests, depending on the test, can show bacteria levels, minerals present, metals and other possible contaminants.

The water to your home in Zion Ridge is tested monthly by the East Zion Special Services District (EZSSD) using a tester certified by the state of Utah. The EZSSD water testing results are posted on the Division of Water Quality Website which can be accessed at <https://waterlink.utah.gov/deqWater/reports.html?systemid+597>. In addition, homeowners can contact the EZSSD Board for additional information about that process. The monthly EZSSD water test results have consistently indicated that our Zion Ridge water is safe to drink.

Homeowners also can obtain a water testing kit and test the water at the tap in their home, or obtain test results done by an independent certified water tester. The cost of either of these additional testing options would be performed at the expense of the individual homeowner.

### **Types of Filtration -**

This brief outline is intended to help give each homeowner some idea of the level of choice for water filtration and to serve as a starting point for you. It is not representative of the entire breadth of filtration choices. Any filtration choice you make is best done based on the water test results and on information you research and expert advice.

- Sediment filtration
- Reverse osmosis multi-stage filtration
- Other systems, including various processes and combinations of filter systems.

Our Zion Ridge water is from a well operated by the EZSSD. As with nearly all rural water systems, whether from a well or natural spring, there is sediment in the water. In addition, our sediment level can vary due to disturbance in the line (high water flow, line break, line maintenance etc.). At times

our sediment level can become visible. Sediment filters are designed to remove the sediment from the water. Sediment filters are specified to remove sediment down to a certain size (typical is 5 micron or 25 micron). These are typically whole house and several Zion homeowners utilize sediment filters. This option is the lowest cost filtration and can be obtained for as little as under \$100 (not including installation).

The reverse osmosis advanced filtration can remove most other elements in addition to sediment. Depending on the type and level of filter, elements such as minerals, metals, bacteria, salts and progressively other elements can be filtered from your water. There are two-stage, 3-stage, 4-stage and all the way up to 7-stage filtrations systems. These can be installed as under-the-kitchen-sink or whole house. As the level of filtration increases, so does the cost. Cost and quality can significantly vary from manufacturer and retailer. The simpler reverse osmosis systems can be obtained for as little as \$200 to \$300, while the more advanced can cost as much as \$800 to \$2000. All approximate costs are not including installation.

Some of the more advanced filtration systems can actually purify water to the point that some users refer to the resulting water at the tap as “without taste”. Some of these systems even add a stage to simply add some minerals to the filtered water to add back some taste! Many of the multi-stage systems include as stage one sediment filtration.

All filtration systems require periodic filter replacement. Most make it fairly easy for the homeowner to do the replacement. Generally, the cost of the replacement filters is higher with the multistage systems.

### **Filter Selection**

A few suggestions for researching what you need and want for water filtration in your Zion Ridge home:

- **Know** what filtration level you want to implement. Get the current water testing from the EZSSD. If you choose, you can pay for additional water testing, either in a homeowner kit or through an independent water quality testing service.
- **Evaluate** what level of filtration you feel you need. Get expert advice in making this choice. Many Zion Ridge homeowners do have experience with filtration in their home and can help. Remember that we have experience, but we are not experts. EZSSD Board members can answer questions that may be helpful to you as you make your decision.
- **Research** what is available. Below is some information on a few websites you can review. These can be just a starting point for your filter research or may provide enough information to help you make a decision.

### **Research Starting Points**

Websites that can be helpful: Homedepot.com, Lowes.com, [www.123filter.com](http://www.123filter.com) (web address for iSpring water systems), GE Appliances.com. Please note that the specific retailers and manufacturers are only selected for informational purposes to start your research. These websites will show you a number of options and ideas to help with your selection.