

Contact: Dave Loveday
Water Quality Association
International Headquarters & Laboratory
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
Email: dloveday@wqa.org
Telephone: 630 505 0160 Fax: 630 505 9637



PRESS RELEASE

RELEASED: MAY 18, 2010

Nitrate can be efficiently removed with home water treatment Ion exchange and reverse osmosis shown to be effective

LISLE, Illinois -- Homeowners concerned about nitrate in their water supply should explore home water treatment water for a potentially effective and cost-efficient removal process, according to the Water Quality Association.

Tests using independently developed standards have shown that economical household water treatment technologies are capable of eliminating the contaminant.

According to recent news reports, California Watch has determined that more than two million Californians may have been exposed to harmful levels of nitrate.

Current technology suggests that several techniques may be used for removing nitrate from drinking water, including whole-house ion exchange similar to water softeners except with anion exchange in place of water softening cation exchange, reverse osmosis, electrodialysis, and distillation.

At the present time, however, it appears that two methods, ion exchange water treatment and reverse osmosis are considered to be the most practical and economically feasible for nitrate removal.

Most nitrogenous materials in natural waters tend to be converted to nitrate, so all sources of combined nitrogen, particularly organic nitrogen and ammonia, should be considered as potential nitrate sources. Primary sources of organic nitrates include human sewage and livestock manure, especially from feedlots.

Nitrate in drinking water can be responsible for a temporary blood disorder in infants called methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome). In infants less than six months old, a condition exists in their digestive systems which allows for the chemical reduction of nitrate to nitrite.

WQA encourages homeowners to seek out certified professionals to determine their own needs and options. At wqa.org, consumers can use the "Find A Water Professional" button to find certified professionals in their community. Consumers may also contact the Pacific Water Quality Association at www.pwqa.org or 714-242-7715.

WQA is a not-for-profit association that provides public information about water treatment issues and also trains and certifies professionals to better serve consumers. WQA has more than 2,500 members internationally.

— # # # —