

Is a water filter necessary in our home?

Description

default watermark

When we renovated our house this year, one of the questions we had to ask ourselves was â?? **should we get a water filter?** Is it needed, or can we save on this expense?

Is a water filter necessary in Singapore?

It is common knowledge that Singaporeâ??s tap water is safe to drink. And while PUB makes it mandatory for town councils in charge of the water tanks to engage licensed plumbers for regular inspections, there have also been cases where contaminants were found in HDB water tanks, including worms, yellowish water and even a dead body.

Our tap water in Singapore contains chlorine (to kill bacteria) and fluoride. Despite the controversy over fluoridated water, which is banned in many European countries as well as China and Japan, PUB still adds fluoride to our water in a bid to fight tooth decay. But Iâ??m concerned over the studies showing that fluoridated water might reduce children IQ and potentially cause bone cancer. Iâ??m also not all comfortable with all the chemicals found in our water (view the comprehensive list here).

There have also been cases where weâ??ve encountered discoloured water in our current HDB flat. Apparently, this does happen from time to time and PUB states this could be due to the following reasons:

- corrosion of the iron tank or other storage components
- corrosion of service water pipes and fittings
- heavy drawoff from a watermains leak

It is also advised that residents to not use the discoloured water for laundry or drinking in the meantime. Which can be extremely inconvenient, especially if you only have those few hours at home to run your errands and household chores.

Why we decided to install a water filter

default watermark

Aside from the research above, our other considerations were to:

- protect against old / rusty pipes
- remove chlorine *(and its metallic taste)*
- reduces the hassle of having to keep boiling water *(at least 10 times a day)*

Given that the resale flat weâ??re moving to is really old, Iâ??m really not sure what has accumulated in the water pipes over the last few decades. With a child at home, we donâ??t want to take the risk, especially since the young kidneys arenâ??t fully developed to cope yet.

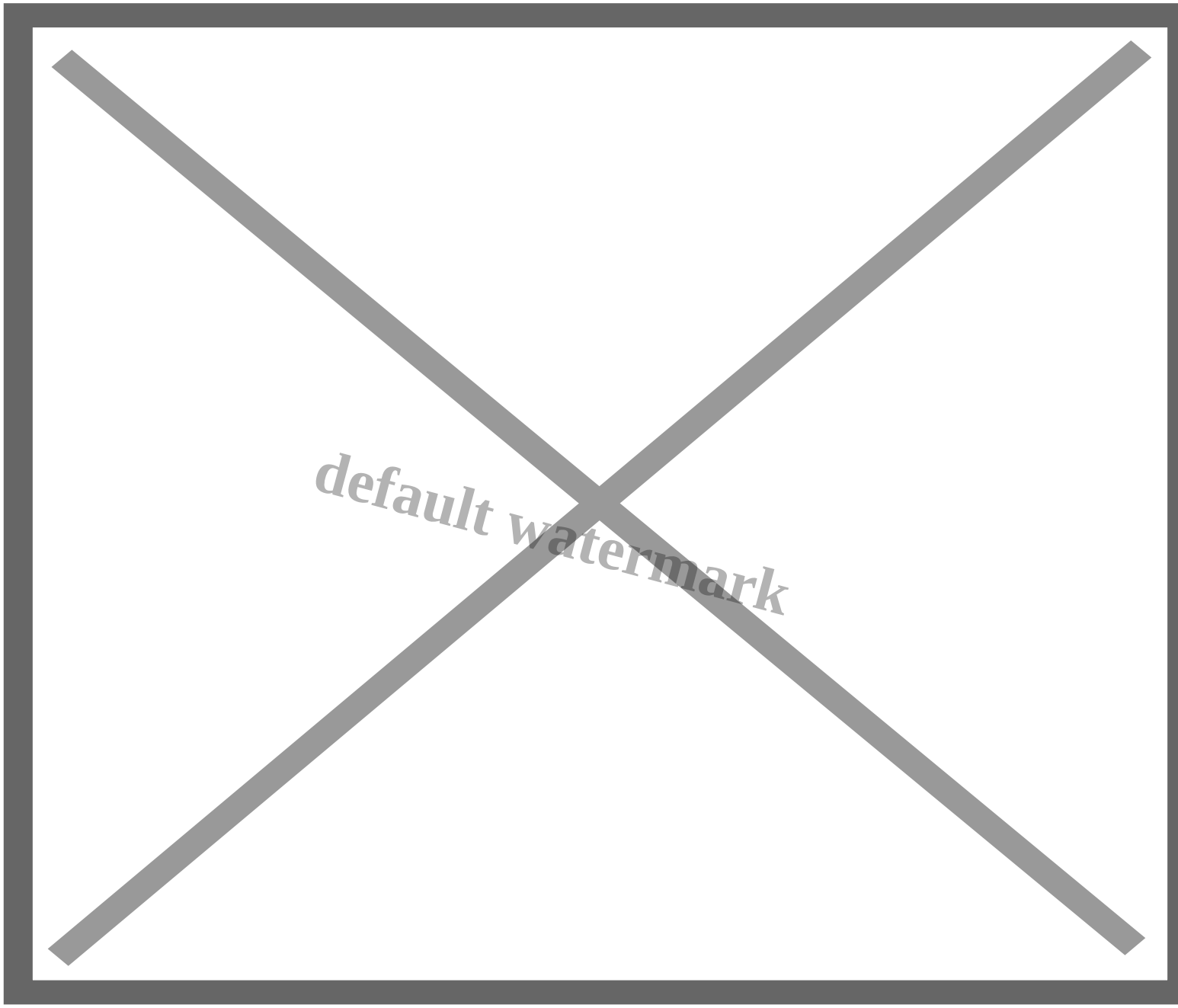
Although it has been said that PUB discourages the use of filtration devices, it is worth noting that this is largely based on the assumption that these filters are not cleaned or replaced regularly, which then makes them a breeding ground for bacteria. Which is why regular maintenance (at least once a year?) is important.

We thus visited several shops to check out the different brands of water filters in Singapore but soon ran into a problem â?? most of the water filters were too bulky and we simply didnâ??t have enough space on our kitchen countertop to fit it in!

default watermark

Luckily, a friend of ours introduced us to Tomal and that solved most of our issues.

Review: Tomal FreshDew Hot & Cool Dispenser



The most important factor was that Tomal was the only one that could fit into our kitchen â?? it was **only 8cm thin**, and we could mount it against the wall instead of having to put it on our countertop. It was the slimmest and most elegant in design among all the water filters we checked out, and this addressed the space constraints we had to work with in our kitchen area.

My other criteria for a water filter included:

- Easy to replace, ideally DIY so I can save on servicing costs
- Affordable replacement cartridges

- Able to dispense hot and cool water
- Frequency of replacements not more than every 4 months

Tomal custom undersink water bullet filters are so simple to install that all we needed to do was to plug and twist. That was it!

The filtered water tastes pure and thereâ??s no metallic taste anymore. The minerals in the alkaline cartridge also adds back necessary minerals, so if youâ??re into the benefits of alkaline water, you might want to have this too.

On longevity, the bullets can apparently last for up to 1.5 years for a household of 4 â?? 5 people, but the suggested replacement is for once every year. And if youâ??re like me and youâ??ve ever tried to make milk while juggling a crying baby, youâ??re going to appreciate how much safer and convenient Tomal makes it for us to prepare warm milk within a few seconds flat.

How much does it cost?

default watermark

We got the FreshDew Hot & Cool Dispenser and opted for the set of 4-bullet filter series for a total of S$2,399. Tomalâ??s custom undersink series has a modular system which also makes it easy to change the filters next year when we need to â?? which means we donâ??t have to pay for any call-back service, hooray!

The cartridges are at $489 for the set of 4, so that works out to be $1.33 / day for every replacement. Right now, weâ??re a family of 5 adults and 1 child, so thatâ??s about **22 cents per person each day.** And considering how weâ??ve been paying a lot more than that for coffee and bubble tea, I think this is a negligible price to pay.

If you have young children or the elderly in your household, then you might want to look into whether getting a water filter makes sense for you as well.

It certainly did for me.

***** Sponsored Message *****

With 37 years of experience in filtration, Tomal water filters are being used in medical centres, cafes, hotels, spas, offices and more. With ingredients from the US, Japan and Korea, Tomal is pioneering and redefining water standards today. And now, you can experience Tomal water in your own household for yourself.

Get $200 off your Tomal purchase by keying in **SGBB200** upon checkout. Specially for Budget Babe readers only!

This post was written in collaboration with Tomal Global.

Category

1. Family