



Irish EPA says POU devices not needed

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COUNTY WEXFORD, IRELAND — Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), headquartered here, has issued a statement that says point-of-use water filtration devices are not needed because water quality is "very good" and that some water treatment equipment produces unhealthy "so-called pure water," according to a June 5 Irish Independent [article](#) on Independent.ie.

The statement follows an April Irish Independent [article](#) that said hundreds of drinking water systems serving 1.2 million people across Ireland were deemed "at risk" in an Irish EPA report, as [WaterTech Online](#)™ reported.

In the wake of that news, some water treatment equipment businesses have gone door-to-door, using scare tactics to sell water treatment equipment, The Irish Independent reported. EPA Ireland has advised that anyone approached in such a manner should check with their local council on water quality issues before buying a water treatment system.

"There is no point in buying a filter that removes more iron, salts and minerals if these are not present in the water in high concentrations in the first place," EPA Ireland Program Manager Gerard O'Leary said in the article.

He continued, "Some people might think that the only answer to safe water is to install a water filter in your home, but this is not a view shared by the EPA, as water suppliers are required to supply water that is safe and wholesome."

O'Leary said that publicly supplied water "contains calcium, iron, magnesium and other minerals that are good for your health," noting that reverse osmosis filters leave the water with almost no minerals, according to the report.

"It might seem strange, but this so-called pure water isn't good for you. Water treated by reverse osmosis should not be used for drinking purposes. Anyone who has reverse osmosis-treated water in their home should also have a tap that brings in regular water for drinking," O'Leary is quoted as saying.

The EPA also noted that filters that are not properly maintained could contribute to poor drinking water quality.