

# MAKE WATER DRINKABLE

Purify even the dirtiest water with this charcoal filter

SUITABLE FOR **BEAVERS**, **CUBS**, **SCOUTS** AND **EXPLORERS**

**1** Start by making charcoal with your section. Ask them to build and light a wood fire, making sure it gets really hot, and then extinguish it with earth. Once the charcoal has completely cooled, your young people can grind it up into small pieces. This is a messy job so make sure their clothing is protected.

**2** Cut the base off of a plastic drinks bottle and drill or pierce a hole through its lid. Now, cut the second two-litre bottle in half.

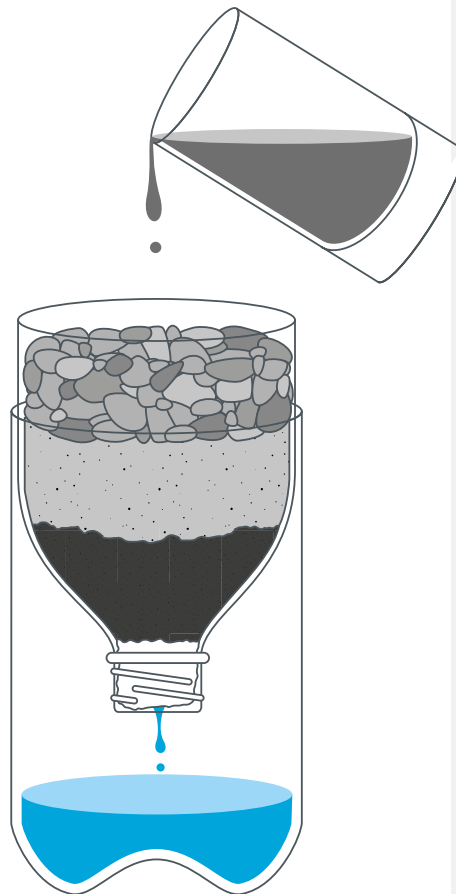
**3** Taking the bottle with the pierced lid, ask your Scouts to line the inside of the lid and neck with grass or a piece of cotton. Next, they should pack the crushed charcoal in as tightly as possible, half-filling the bottle. Now, ask the young people to pour in a few inches of sand and pack it down firmly. They can now add the final layer of small stones or pebbles.

**4** Next, they can place the bottom half of the other plastic bottle base-down onto a flat surface and rest the charcoal-filled bottle inside it.

**5** Slowly pour in your dirty water, being careful not to displace the sand, and let it percolate through the filter. The water should drip from the

bottom; if it gushes out, your layers aren't packed tightly enough.

**6** Run the water through the filter twice more and then boil it for a few minutes to make sure it's sterilised. You can even add a small piece of charcoal to the boiling water for a cleaner taste.



## TIME NEEDED

**60–90** minutes

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Wood
- Fire-lighting materials
- Earth or sand
- Protective clothing
- 2-litre plastic drinks bottles x 2
- Hand saw or sharp scissors
- Drill or Swiss Army Knife
- Grass or cotton (a piece of T-shirt)
- Small stones
- Saucepan

## THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGE



Scout Survival Skills  
Activity Badge



Scout Outdoor  
Challenge Award



Scout Camper  
Activity Badge

## OUTCOMES

You can use this activity to spark discussion about the quality of water globally and link it to our charity partner, WaterAid.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

Use this activity on camp to fulfil badge requirements, or compare different versions of natural water filters to see which is the best.

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