## How Do We Make Water Drinkable?

Like the majority of water utilities in the U.S., we use a multi-step treatment process at all three of our drinking water treatment plants. This Water Treatment Process diagram provides a brief description of drinking water treatment in Philadelphia.



Gravity Settling
 River water is pumped to reservoirs to allow sediment to settle.



Disinfection
 Sodium Hypochlorite is added to kill disease-causing organisms.



Coagulation, Flocculation
 pH Adjustment
 Coagulant is added to make fine suspended particles clump together.

Gentle mixing of the water encourages this process. The clumps of particles are called "floc." Lime is added to adjust pH.



Gravity Settling
 The newly formed "floc" settles by gravity and is removed from the bottom of the settling tanks.





comes from the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.



Filtration
 Water flows through filters which remove even more microscopic particles.



Disinfection
 Sodium Hypochlorite is added a second time to kill any remaining disease-causing organisms.



Fluoride is added to help prevent tooth decay, Zinc Orthophosphate is added to minimize pipe corrosion and Ammonia is added to keep the disinfectant in the water and reduce the chlorine taste and odor.



The average Philadelphian uses 250,000,000

Gallons of water Philadelphia treats and distributes everyday