

Sawyer

Water filters and accessories

Note: This manual was compiled by the seller from Sawyer's official materials (filter instructions, help pages and FAQ on sawyer.com).

Products covered by this manual

- Squeeze Water Filtration System (SP129, SP131)
- Micro Squeeze Water Filtration System (SP2129)
- MINI Water Filtration System (SP128 – blue, black, orange)
- Single MINI (SP120A, SP340A, SP350A)
- Cleaning Coupling (SP150)
- Squeezable pouches: 1 l, set of 3 (SP113); 2 l, set of 2 (SP114)
- Fast Fill Adapters for hydration packs (SP115)
- Inline Hydration Pack Adapters (SP110)

What a healthy filter does

When you keep your filter healthy, it keeps your water safe.

Sawyer's 0,1 micron absolute filters house a cluster of micro-fibrous tubes which use similar technology found in medical dialysis. As water passes through the side walls of the tubes, harmful bacteria and protozoa are trapped on the outer walls so you can be confident your water is safe to drink.

Removes

- Bacteria such as Salmonella, Cholera, Leptospirosis, and E. Coli (99,99999%)
- Protozoa and Cysts such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium (99,9999%)
- Microplastics (100%)

Won't remove

- Metals, chemicals, pesticides, VOCs, hydrocarbons, salt

Seller's note: The filter does not remove viruses.

All our filters are designed to take out the harmful pathogens such as bacteria, protozoa and cysts which are the things that make you sick from the water, but tastes, colors and odors, which are dissolved solids, will pass through the filter. This includes fluoride, chlorine, tannins, chlorophyll or anything that is in solution like coffee, sugar, salts, electrolytes, or flavorings.

The Sawyer filter removes taste that comes from bacteria, dirt, and green matter. The Sawyer filter does NOT remove iron, sulfur, other chemicals, or simple compounds.

! Important safety information

- Always wash hands before handling the filter.
- Always filter into a clean container.
- The filters will not remove salt.
- We do not recommend backwashing with dirty water. If this happens, immediately run at least 3,8 liters (1 gallon) of water through the filter and dispose before filtering water for consumption.
- We do not recommend attaching filters directly to spigots or faucets. The filters are designed to handle up to 1,4 bar (20 psi) of pressure and attaching the filter directly to a water source with a higher water pressure can damage the fibers.
- The optimal pressure for our filters is 1,4 bar (20 psi). At 2,1 bar (30 psi) they will develop stress cracks and burst over time, and at 2,8 bar (40 psi) they will burst.
- Our 0,1 micron filters can withstand temperatures ranging from 0–60 °C (32–140 °F).
- Sawyer recommends that you err on the side of caution and replace your filters if you think there is the possibility of your filter having been frozen, boiled, dropped onto a hard surface, overtightened, or if it was purchased from an unauthorized seller.

Freezing

Do not freeze your filter. The filter is safe from freezing temperatures if it has never been used. However after the fibers are wet there is no definitive way to tell if a filter has been damaged due to freezing. Sawyer recommends replacing your filter if you suspect that it has been frozen. If you are in freezing temperatures, we recommend that you store your filter in your pocket or close to your person so that your body heat can prevent freezing.

When sleeping, keep it in your sleeping bag next to your body. Flying home after your adventures? Be sure to put your filter in your carry-on bag so it stays protected from compromising conditions below the cabin.

THERE IS NO WARRANTY FOR A FROZEN FILTER.

Filtering water

Sawyer filters can attach to a common plastic bottle with a 28 mm thread.

- 1 Only finger tighten. An over tightened filter can damage the white gasket.
- 2 Always filter into a clean container.
- 3 Close cap.



Fig. 1 – Filtering water

The correct way to attach the filter to the pouch or bottle is to finger-tighten it, tightening just until you feel some resistance. Gaskets can be easily damaged by over-tightening filters onto pouches or bottles. Over-tightening can also cause a hairline crack which widens over time.

The filter can be screwed onto most standard soda pop bottles. Between drinks, you might have to slightly unscrew the filter to allow air back into the bottle.

Flow rates vary depending on how clean the filter is and how well you cleaned the filter. Altitude also affects the flow rates (the higher you go the slower the flow).

Note: Clean your filter regularly to maintain a good flow rate.

Squeeze and Micro Squeeze

To use, simply fill up the reusable pouch at any fresh water source, screw the filter onto the pouch, and drink directly from the filter or squeeze water into a water bottle.

The Sawyer Squeeze Filter can be used with a hydration pack using the Inline Adapter or Fast Fill Adapters. It also fits standard 28 mm threaded bottles, making it ideal for filtering water on the go when you're unsure about water safety.

Attach the Micro Squeeze to the included drinking pouch, use the included straw to drink directly from your water source, connect it to hydration pack tubing (sold separately), or screw it onto standard disposable bottles (28 mm thread).

Although the Micro and the Mini are based on the Squeeze filter, the Micro is half the length of the Squeeze while the Mini is about half the width. Based on the internal fibers, the Mini will need to be backwashed more often than the Micro which will need to be backwashed more often than the Squeeze. Similarly, the flow rate of the Squeeze will be faster than the Micro which will be faster than the Mini.

The Squeeze, the Micro and the Dual-Threaded Mini all come with a flip-top cap on one end and are dual-threaded whereas the standard Mini is threaded on only one side. So, the Squeeze, the Micro and the DT Mini have more versatility as they can be used with all our adapters as well as the cleaning coupling, while the standard Mini has barbs on both sides so you don't have to have the adapter to put it inline.

MINI and Single MINI

The Sawyer MINI gives you a number of ways to access clean water. Attach it to a drinking pouch, use a straw to drink directly from your water source, connect it to hydration pack tubing, or screw it onto standard disposable bottles (28 mm thread).

- A. Filter
- B. Cleaning plunger
- C. Drinking straw

The contents depend on the kit.

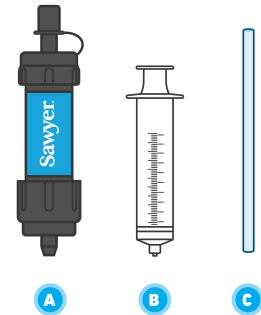


Fig. 2 – MINI kit

Using the MINI as a straw

- 1 Push the straw onto the bottom or input end of the filter.
- 2 Use the filter as a straw.

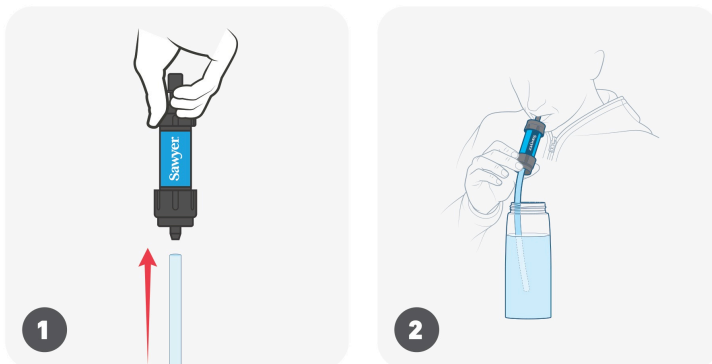


Fig. 3 – Using the MINI as a straw

Squeezable pouches (SP113, SP114)

Sawyer's Squeezable Pouch Multi-Packs include replacement pouches for the Sawyer Squeeze Filter and MINI water filtration systems. These pouches can be filled in lakes or rivers, or under faucets. They attach directly to the tapered Sawyer Squeeze Filter, Micro Squeeze, Dual Threaded MINI, and MINI to filter the drinking water. These pouches can be collapsed and rolled up for portability.

Sawyer filters offer the highest level of filtration available, therefore they are removing more seen and unseen particulates than most people are used to filtering. Even water that looks sparkling clear can actually be loaded with very fine particulates. The Sawyer squeeze pouches are rugged but not

indestructible. They can tear as a result of too much pressure being applied which happens when one tries to force water through the filter too fast or when the filter needs cleaning and is creating more resistance.

Sawyer pouches are designed to withstand up to 0,5 bar (7 psi) of pressure before bursting. This in most cases allows for a large amount of water to be used before filter cleaning is necessary. Therefore, the pouches will never burst so long as the filters are reasonably clean. However, most people are capable of generating more than 0,5 bar (7 psi) of pressure, and if the filter is not clean, they can easily burst the pouch by squeezing too hard.

- Do not squeeze the pouch too hard or wring the pouch.
- Do not over-tighten the filter on the pouch. Over-tightening can cause the o-rings to embed into the threads or lodge into the opening of the pouch. If the o-ring is out of place the filter may not have a tight seal and water could leak out of the bottom of the filter.
- With all new technology, it takes time to learn how to best use it. Until the perfect balance of force and cleaning is learned, we recommend bringing a backup pouch on your trip.

While our pouches are designed to be durable, they are certainly not indestructible and as such are not covered under the Squeeze warranty.

Instructions for regular care as well as long term storage are printed directly on the squeeze pouches.

Inline use with adapters

Inline Hydration Pack Adapters (SP110)

This set of Inline Adapters for Screw-on Filters turns your Sawyer screw-on/off filter into an inline filtration system for your hydration pack. Just screw the connections onto each side of Sawyer Squeeze filter and insert the filter inline into your hydration pack drink tube (sold separately). With the filter installed this way, you can fill your reservoir with dirty water and drink safe water from the tube. When you don't need to filter water, unscrew the connections from the filter and simply screw them together to reconnect the tube – just remember to thoroughly clean a dirty reservoir before drinking from it without your Sawyer Filter. Designed for use with industry standard tubing with a 6,35 mm (1/4 in) inner diameter, it's compatible with the Sawyer Squeeze Filter.

Fast Fill Adapters for hydration packs (SP115)

Fill your hydration pack reservoir directly from your screw on/off filter without removing it from your backpack with the Sawyer Fast Fill Adapter (hydration pack and filter sold separately). Adapters attach directly to the drinking tube on most hydration reservoirs. Designed for use with industry standard tubing with a 6,35 mm (1/4 in) inner diameter, it's compatible with the Sawyer Squeeze Filters (models SP129, SP131, SP181, SP182, and SP137) and Sawyer MINI Filter (model SP128 and other colors).

MINI inline

The standard Mini has barbs on both sides so you don't have to have the adapter to put it inline.

Backflushing

The key to a successful backflush is to be forceful. A good backflush can restore up to 98% of the original flow rate of your filter.

We recommend backwashing your filter when your flow rate begins to diminish, before prolonged storage, and when you are ready to start using your filter again. Backwashing your filter after storage is a great way to re-wet the filters and restore the flow rate before use.

The frequency of cleaning depends on how dirty the water is and your own flow rate preferences. With relatively clear water, backflushing may only be necessary every 3800 liters (1000 gallons) whereas with extremely turbid or muddy water, you may find yourself needing to backflush every 38 liters (10 gallons). Nevertheless, this is an extremely simple process and takes only a minute, at home or in the field.

With the cleaning plunger

- 1 Remove the cap from the drinking side of the filter.
- 2 Fill the cleaning plunger with clean water.
- 3 Press it against the drinking side of the filter, opposite the direction of flow.
- 4 Forcefully push the water through the filter fibers using the plunger.

Repeat steps 2–4 until the water comes through clear and easily.

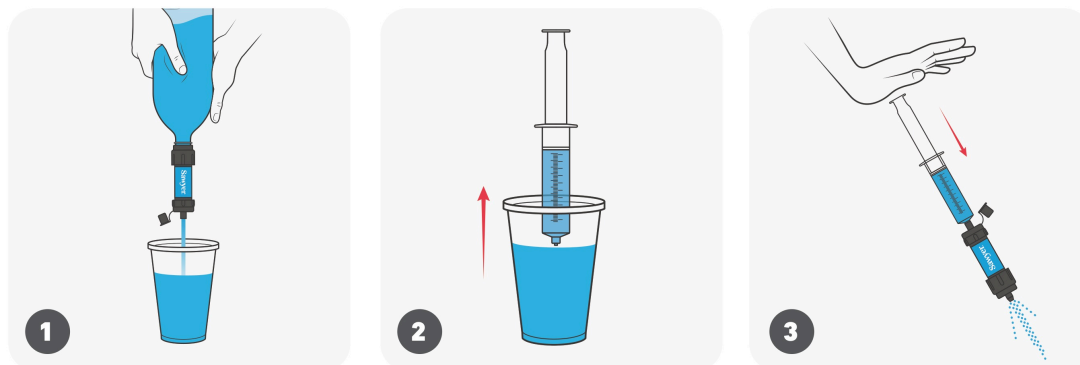


Fig. 4 – Backwashing: 1 Filter into a clean container. 2 Fill the cleaning plunger. 3 Backwash forcefully and repeat until water runs clear.

Backwash the filter more often and with more force. Bring the lightweight cleaning plunger on your trip, especially if it's a multi-day trip. It is important that the first backwash is strong so that it cleans out all of the fibers rather than creating paths of least resistance. With turbid or muddy water, after backwashing push water forwards through the filter with the cleaning plunger to help loosen up any dirt that could be trapped between the fibers or still inside the filter casing, then repeat backwashing until water flows through clear.

With the Cleaning Coupling (SP150)

The Sawyer Cleaning Coupling offers an alternative way to clean your Sawyer Squeeze Filter or dual-threaded MINI filter using a standard plastic bottle. Lost your cleaning plunger? Use a cleaning coupling and a plastic bottle for a different way to backflush.

- 1 Remove the push pull cap (fig. 5).
- 2 Attach the coupling to the filter (fig. 6).
- 3 Attach a bottle or squeeze pouch filled with CLEAN water to the other side of the coupling (fig. 7).
- 4 Squeeze the bottle or pouch vigorously to backwash the filter. Repeat as necessary until the filter is clean (fig. 8).
- 5 Unscrew the coupling and re-attach the push pull cap (fig. 9).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

We recommend discarding the first liter (1 quart) of water before consuming in case you backwashed the filter with contaminated water.

If the filter is still slow

If your filter still isn't flowing... Soak it in hot water (but no hotter than you would touch) for 2 hours to loosen up any sediment in the fibers before backflushing.

If your filter is slow or plugged, try backwashing rigorously with hot water (no hotter than 60 °C / 140 °F). You may need to repeat this several times to unclog the filter. If this doesn't return the flow to like new, you may have a calcium buildup in the fibers. Soak in vinegar for ½ hour followed by rigorous backwashing with hot water (no hotter than 60 °C / 140 °F). Repeat until the flow returns to normal – it may take several times to get it all the way clean again.

Storage

- 1 Backflush your filter before storing it.
- 2 Sanitize the filter element to kill any microorganisms that may remain inside your filter. To do this, backflush your filter with a diluted bleach solution using one capful of fragrance-free bleach per liter of water.
- 3 Allow the filter to dry and store in a temperature-controlled environment (because no one wants a frozen filter).

Do not over-chlorinate when sanitizing the filter – it will harm the fibers. One pouch capful of bleach to a pouch of water is all that is needed.

If you've stored a dirty filter... it can usually be salvaged! Soak it in hot water, let it sit for a few days, then forcefully backflush the filter.

With proper cleaning and if stored in a cool dry place out of direct UV light, our filters should last indefinitely.

Warranty

The Sawyer Squeeze comes with a lifetime warranty from manufacturer defects for the life of the filter. The warranty is on the filter itself, not the other parts or accessories that come with your system. The Sawyer MINI, Dual Threaded MINI, and Micro Squeeze are rated up to 378 000 liters (100 000 gallons).

Physical damage is not covered. **THERE IS NO WARRANTY FOR A FROZEN FILTER.**

To submit a warranty claim with Sawyer, you must provide proof of purchase (receipt, invoice, or order confirmation), a photo of the filter, and a description of the issue. Learn more at sawyer.com/warranty.

Technical specifications

Filtration	0,1 micron absolute, hollow fiber membrane
Thread	28 mm
Compatible tubing	6,35 mm (1/4 in) inner diameter
Temperature range	0–60 °C (32–140 °F)
Weight	Squeeze: approx. 85 g (3 oz) Micro Squeeze: approx. 57 g (2 oz) MINI: approx. 57 g (2 oz)

CONTACTS

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