

Tips for Hiking With a Sawyer Filter

If your filter is clogged...

It's time for a thorough backflushing! Less than 1% of Sawyer filters ever produced have become unrestorable in their lifetime. If you follow the cleaning and storing instructions you will be able to fully enjoy a Sawyer filter for a lifetime.

If your gravity system is stuck...

You may be experiencing an air lock. Try slowly unscrewing the top and/or bottom connection of the reservoir to the filter until the trapped air releases, and the water begins to flow easily.

If your washer keeps falling out OR your filter leaks at the intake...

You might be over tightening your filter. The intake side of the screw on filters come with a washer to buffer a snug fit with the dirty water vessel. Thus, over tightening unseats the washer, either causing it to jam up into the filter or it may fall out altogether. With a bit of gentle intention while fitting the filter, this will not happen.

If you're hiking in temperatures below 33°...

Protect your filter! When hiking in freezing temps, tuck your filter into a warm coat pocket or sleeping bag to ensure the fibers stay safe. There is no threat of freeze damage with an unused filter. 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.

What is the best way to collect water?

It depends on the source(s) you'll be encountering. However, it is good to have a couple tricks up your sleeve just in case. Try getting creative; we've seen folks use the bottom couple inches of a plastic bottle as a scoop, leaves catch a trickle out of a spring, and sometimes, if you're lucky, it's all easy flowing sources ahead.

How often should I backflush?

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 1,000 gallons whereas with extremely turbid or muddy water, you may find yourself needing to backflush every 10 gallons. Nevertheless, this is an extremely simple process and takes only a minute, at home or in the field.

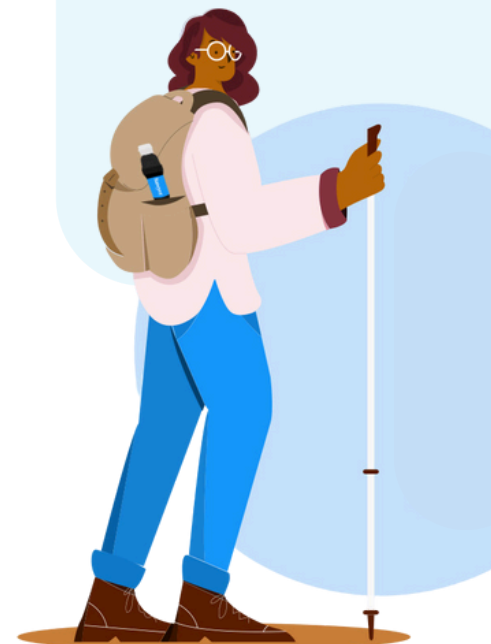


Did you know?

Sawyer partners with more than **140 organizations** in **80+ countries** to bring Sawyer filters to communities lacking access to clean water. This is why we do what we do.

With proper backflushing, filter recipients around the world have made their filters last for over a decade of daily use. These filtration systems are the exact same Sawyer filters adventurers use while hiking and traveling.

learn more at
[Sawyer.com/purpose](https://www.sawyer.com/purpose)



Backflushing and Storage

Backflush to Maintain Flow

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.

Step 1 - Remove the cap from the drinking side of the filter.

Step 2 - Fill the cleaning plunger with clean water.

Step 3 - Press it against the drinking side of the filter, opposite the direction of flow.

Step 4 - Forcefully push the water through the filter fibers using the plunger.

Repeat Steps 2 - 4 until the water comes through clear and easily.

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 water source is mineral-rich...

Soak the filter in vinegar for 30 minutes before backflushing with hot water.

Lost your cleaning plunger?

Use a cleaning coupling and a plastic bottle for a different way to backflush.



Storage: Best Practices

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.

Step 1 - Backflush your filter before storing it.

Step 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.

Step 3 - Allow the filter to dry and store in a temperature-controlled environment (because no one wants a frozen filter.)



We believe in technical, lasting gear. The Sawyer MINI and Micro filters hold warranty to 100,000 gallons. The Sawyer Squeeze comes with a lifetime warranty from manufacturer defects for the life of the filter. Physical damage is not covered. Learn more at [Sawyer.com/warranty](https://www.sawyer.com/warranty).