



# Did You Know the Same Water Dad Fishes in on Father's Day is the Water You Drink?

**Learn about the process that  
makes river water safe to drink!**

Cover photo courtesy of Ditto Landing, credit to EQB View

# How does HU prepare river water for drinking?



The majority of the water for Huntsville Utilities customers is from the Tennessee River. A conventional method to purify water at the water treatment plants includes these five steps:

**Coagulation** – Aluminum sulfate (alum), chlorine and sodium hydroxide are added to the water, which causes the suspended particles to stick together (coagulate) and form small particles.

**Flocculation** – Large paddles in the flocculation basins mix the chemicals and the water particles. The movement causes the particles to stick together and form larger, heavier particles called floc.

**Sedimentation** – When the water leaves the flocculation basins, it goes into sedimentation basins. Here the floc settles to the bottom of the basin and is removed from the water. Clear water moves to filtration.

**Filtration** – From the sedimentation basin, the water flows through filters. Filters are made of layers of anthracite (charcoal), sand and gravel. The filters are used to remove any remaining particles.

**Disinfection** – After the filtration process, a small amount of chlorine is added to maintain a disinfectant residual keeping it safe from microbial contamination as water is pumped through the distribution system.

**Your 2019 Water Quality Report will  
arrive in the mail during June!  
Huntsville Utilities award-winning  
water system has been repeatedly  
recognized for the treatment process  
as well as its great taste!**

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