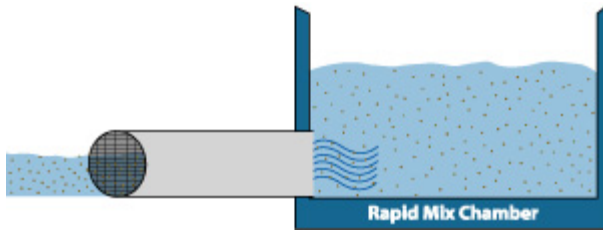


How Does Waterworks Clean the Water?

Dirt and germs can get mixed up in the water when it is in the river and our reservoirs. Waterworks gets rid of the dirt and germs by something called the treatment process.

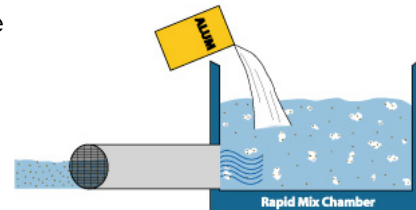
This is how it works. First, we send the water through a screen to remove big things like logs, plants, sticks and leaves. The screens are too big to take out small pieces of dirt.



Next, we pump the water into the treatment plant. We send it to a mixing chamber. We add a chemical called alum to the water. Then we mix it up

very quickly. The alum makes the specks of dirt stick together in small globs. This is called coagulation.

After that, the water travels through a basin where we mix it up very slowly. Slow mixing makes the small globs stick together. The globs make bigger clumps that we call flocs. This is called flocculation.



Next, the water travels to a settling basin. No mixing takes place here. That way the heavy clumps of floc sink to the bottom of the basin. This is called sedimentation.

After the flocs sink, the water is much cleaner. But we want to make sure that we get out even the tiniest specks. So we send the water through a filter. This is called filtration.



Now the water looks really clean. But even though it looks clean, it might have germs in it. We add chlorine or ozone to kill any germs in the water. This is called disinfection.

Finally, we add fluoride to the water to help prevent tooth decay. This is called fluoridation, and it is the end of the treatment process.