



# The Public Health and Safety Organization

## What Is NSF Certification?

Millions of people take the safety of their food, water and consumer products for granted on a daily basis. Why? Because of three letters: NSF. NSF certification is your key to making sure that the products you use meet strict standards for public health protection.

Choosing a product certified by NSF lets you know the company complies with strict standards and procedures imposed by NSF. From extensive product testing and material analyses to unannounced plant inspections, every aspect of a product's development is thoroughly evaluated before it can earn our certification.



Most importantly, NSF certification is not a one-time event, but involves regular on-site inspections of manufacturing facilities and regular re-testing of products to ensure that they continue to meet the same high standards required to maintain certification over time. If for any reason a product fails to meet one or more certification criteria, NSF will take enforcement actions to protect you, including product recall, public notification or de-certification.

Products that earn NSF certification are said to be "NSF certified" or "NSF listed" and display the applicable NSF certification mark to show that they have been tested by one of today's most respected independent product testing organizations.

## Who Is NSF International?

NSF International was founded in 1944 as the National Sanitation Foundation to help standardize sanitation and food safety at a time when the United States had no national sanitation standards. As NSF expanded services beyond sanitation and became a global public health and safety organization, we changed our name to NSF International in 1990.

From the beginning, NSF set a course to create independent standards and product testing programs to help improve overall public health. NSF has more than 140 currently active public health standards and independent testing protocols. They address products ranging from home water treatment systems to kitchen and household appliances to dietary supplements to sustainable flooring and furnishings.

Today, NSF International is a global organization offering services in more than 170 countries. Headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, we remain committed to protecting and improving human health worldwide. We are a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Collaborating Center on Food Safety, Water Quality and Indoor Environment.

We are widely recognized around the world for our scientific and technical expertise in health and environmental sciences. Our microbiologists, engineers, chemists, toxicologists and other environmental professionals are experts in their fields and work hard in our state-of-the-art laboratories to help make sure the products that we all use every day are safer.

### **Look for the NSF Mark**

Around the world, NSF International represents technical excellence in public health and safety, and the NSF mark is a symbol of this expertise.

The trusted NSF mark can be found on millions of consumer, commercial and industrial products, including bottled water, dietary supplements, food equipment, home water treatment products, home appliances, plumbing and faucets, and even pool and spa components. This mark is your assurance that the product has been tested by one of the most respected independent certification companies in existence today - NSF International. We focus on ensuring public health, safety and environmental quality.

### **Examples of the NSF Mark**

Almost all products that carry NSF certification bear an NSF mark. In some cases the mark appears on the product itself, while in others it might appear on the product packaging or in the literature that accompanies the product.

Options for indicating a product's certification include the use of just the NSF mark (a circle containing the letters NSF), the letters NSF followed by a series of numbers or letters to indicate a product standard, or a foil sticker with the NSF mark and several numbers/letters that can be traced to a particular manufacturer. In most cases the manufacturer's name or identifying mark is present on the product along with the product name or model designation.

**Below are examples of how the NSF mark may appear on individual products:**



Although voluntary, many manufacturers of NSF certified bottled water use the standard NSF certification mark — a circle containing the letters NSF — as a sign to consumers that their product has been independently tested and certified for quality.



Manufacturers of home water treatment systems frequently use the NSF independently certified mark and indicate the standard(s) to which their product has been certified.



Home plumbing fixtures can bear one of several different marks depending on the type of testing conducted on the product. In this example, NSF-pw means that this pipe was certified for potable water use.



Home plumbing fixtures can bear one of several different marks depending on the type of testing conducted on the product. In this example, NSF-Certified for Home Use means that this pipe was certified for potable water use.



Dietary supplements that have been tested and certified for content under NSF/ANSI 173 display the traditional NSF mark along with a box under the mark to indicate the type of certification received.



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Personal care products that contain at least 70 percent organic content by weight can be reviewed under NSF/ANSI 305 and if compliant, are eligible to bear the mark shown here.



Products that have been certified by Quality Assurance International bear the certification mark shown to the right. QAI certifies that the product meets applicable organic standards in the country where the product is being sold.