

## **Charcoal.**

You will need lots of charcoal to effectively filter your water. You can either buy activated charcoal or you can make charcoal yourself. *It's not as hard as you might think.*

Activated charcoal is NOT the same thing as the store bought brick – fire up the grill -- charcoal. Essentially, activated charcoal is charcoal that has been chemically and mechanically treated to increase its ability to absorb molecules through wider pores. Activated charcoal is often used in the Emergency Room during an overdose or when someone ingests certain poisons.

Brick charcoal is the kind you use on the grill. It is normally made from a number of ingredients including saw dust, starch, borax and brown coat (naturally compressed peat) among other igniting ingredients.

Wood Charcoal is the kind you can make for yourself and is essentially “cooked wood”. All you really need to do is cook the wood without exposing it to direct flames. As its being cooked inside a tin can, it's releasing gas from the wood and when it's done, the result is black carbon.

## **Homemade Charcoal**

### **Supplies you'll need:**

- tin container with a lid
- Wood (you can use sticks, twigs, logs, etc.)
- a fire that you can sustain for a long period of time
- this works best in a burn barrel but you can use a fire pit if you can keep the fire going

### **Directions:**

1. Cut or stab a hole into the lid of your tin container.
2. Place your wood in the container and make sure the lid is tight.
3. Set the tin container inside your burn barrel or burn pit.
4. Light a fire and keep it going for several hours (around 4 to 6 hours).

5. When the fire goes out and it's cool to touch, take the tin out of the burn barrel.
6. What's left should be usable charcoal (black, flaky chunks of wood).
7. If you're using this charcoal strictly for water filtration, you can pound it into smaller chunks to a powder state.