



# Consumer Report

## How to Buy a Water Ionizer

Filtration  
Plates  
Power  
Warranty  
Features  
Certifications  
Maintenance





# **Consumer Report**

How to Buy a  
Water Ionizer

Alkaline Water Ionizer Reviews

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Important Questions.....7
- What You Need to Know About Water Quality.....8
- Benefits of Alkaline Water.....9
- The Basics of Water Ionizer Technology.....10
- Water Ionizer Features Explained .....12
- Water Ionizer Quality.....16
- Water Ionizer Power Output.....17
- Water Ionizer Plates Explained .....21
- Water Ionizer Filtration.....24
- Water Ionizer Options.....27
- How to Find a Reputable Ionizer Company.....31
- Return Policies and Warranties.....32
- Other Things to Consider  
When Purchasing a Water Ionizer .....34
- Getting the Best Value for Your Budget .....36



# Consumer Report

## How to Buy a Water Ionizer

### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

When comparing water ionizers, consider these two important questions: What are your health goals? Are you trying to improve your health, slow aging, or increase athletic performance?

High performance ionizers can supply a high (10 plus) pH alkaline water in the form of mineral hydrates and a high level of antioxidant potential (ORP - Oxygen Reduction Potential). Maintaining good health does not require the highest pH alkaline water. Health professionals recommend a pH range of 8-9.5 for daily use but some health issues will require stronger alkaline water. You want the maximum amount of alkaline mineral hydrates and the highest antioxidant potential to optimize health!



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WATER QUALITY

The quality of source water affects the quality of water your ionizer makes. Make sure your water ionizer's filters can handle variations of source water quality. Hard water deposits will damage your machine and affect performance if proper filtration is not used. A reputable water ionizer company will assist you in evaluating your water quality and recommend pre-filtration that is specific to your source water contaminants and prevent hard water damage if necessary.





## **BENEFITS OF ALKALINE WATER**

### **Why are people drinking alkaline water?**

- *Improve Hydration*
- *Detoxification*
- *Improve Health*
- *Weight Loss*
- *Antioxidants*
- *Cholesterol Reduction*
- *Existing Health Issues*



### **Athletic Performance**

- *Better Hydration*
- *Neutralizes Lactic Acid*
- *Greater Endurance*
- *Improves Recovery*
- *Increased Performance*

When you determine your needs, answer the second question: Which alkaline water ionizer best fits your needs? Use this guide to determine which features to look for in a water ionizer. This buyer's guide will help you find a water ionizer that fits your budget and health goals.

## THE BASICS OF WATER IONIZER TECHNOLOGY



**Power System** Quality ionizers have adjustable, energy efficient SMPS power supplies that optimize pH and antioxidant potential (ORP) levels which allow you to compensate for hard water problems. There are two power systems used in ionizers today:

### SMPS Power Supply (Switched Mode Power Supply)

- Runs Cooler
- Saves Energy
- Reliable/Lasts Longer
- Better Power Control
- Lighter and More Efficient
- Optimizes pH & ORP

Switched Mode Power Supply which is used in high definition Plasma and HDTVs, computers, and all energy efficient appliances. SMPS Power Systems are standard in high quality electronics.

## **Transformer**

- *Has a shorter lifespan*
- *Does not optimize power output*
- *Non-adjustable*
- *Shorter life-span*
- *Runs hotter than SMPS*
- *Heavier and less efficient*

Transformers must dissipate excess power. This is a big problem because the dissipation is done in the form of heat. When the heat builds up it wastes energy, limits the life of the ionizer, and causes early failure of electrical components. Plus, they don't optimize the power which enhances healthy water properties!

### **Ionizers that use an SMPS power supply**

- LIFE Ionizers®
- AlkaFresh™
- BionTech™ (optional)
- EOS™
- IonCare™
- Bawell™

### **Ionizers that use a Transformer power supply**

- KYK™
- Enagic/Kanger®™
- A20™
- Jupiter™
- Alkazone™
- BioinTech™ (optional SMPS)
- Chanson™
- Nexus™
- Alive/Real™ (Aqua Ionizer Deluxe 7.0)

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## WATER IONIZER FEATURES EXPLAINED

There is a wide range of features to consider when searching for a water ionizer. Make a list of features that are most important to you before you begin shopping. Prioritize your list from most important to least important and use this list to find an ionizer that offers these features while staying within your budget.



### Features of a Water Ionizer to consider:

#### Quality

- Low-range - 5 plate
- Mid-range - 7 plate
- High quality - 9 plate
- Advanced quality - 11 plate
- Ultimate quality - 13 plate

Ionizers in the low range ionizers have 5 plates; mid range ionizers have 7 plates; high quality ionizers have 9 plates. Advanced ionizers have 11 plates, the ultimate in powerful home ionizers have 13 plates. The advantage of having additional plates is they allow the ionizer to reach higher antioxidant potential ORP levels. Eleven plate ionizers have higher power which provides the highest antioxidant levels at a drinkable pH. This is something that should be considered when addressing health issues.

### **Performance**

- *Antioxidant (ORP) levels*
- *pH levels*
- *Power*
- *Plates*

The strength of the water an ionizer makes is determined by the ORP and pH levels it can reach. If you are planning to use your ionizer for weight issues; health issues; detoxification; or athletic performance enhancement, make sure the ionizer you choose has high power (over 400 watts) so it is capable of producing strong alkaline (10+ pH) with high antioxidant (ORP) levels (-600 mV or more). Remember - Tap and bottled waters have a positive ORP which means they are oxidative. The best ionizers for reaching high antioxidant levels at a drinkable pH are 11 large plate units with plenty of power.

## **Options**

- Under the Counter or Countertop  
*(or a unit that will do either one)*
- Custom pre-filtration
- Plexus Power Plates
- MESH Plates
- Energy Frequency Technology
- UV Light Technology
- Laser Energy Technology

Do you need a countertop ionizer or and under the counter ionizer? Pre-filtration is a must to eliminate contaminants and hard water. MESH plates improve pH and ORP levels. Plexus Power Plates are even more advanced. UV Light Technology is also a great feature if your local water quality is affected by problems. Even color choices can be important.

## **Customer Service**

- How many years has the company been in business?
- Are their representatives knowledgeable?
- Are technicians available to speak to you?
- Do they maintain their own service department?

Call the company before you buy your ionizer. Are there technicians on staff? When you ask questions are their representatives knowledgeable and helpful?

## **Return Policy**

- Is the return fee reasonable? (15% is standard)
- Time limit?



Most companies have a 30-60 day return policy. Enagic®/Kangen® only gives 7 days and after that there is a high return fee. All companies charge a restocking fee. You will need to find out how much before you buy.

### **Warranty**

- Does the warranty cover parts and labor?
- Length of warranty

High end ionizers should come with a lifetime warranty on parts and labor. Mid range ionizers typically come with 5, 7 or 10 year warranties. Often the warranty for parts is longer than the warranty for labor on mid range machines. Low end ionizers have warranties form 1-3 years.

## Water Ionizer Quality

Check some important items to determine whether a seller is a reputable dealer or an ionizer is well-made and safe to use.

Certifications Industry certifications are your guarantee that an ionizer has met stringent standards for quality and safety.

**WQA** - Water Quality Association is most important because they inspect the manufacturer's plant.

**ISO** International Organization for Standardization This certification means that the company uses sound management practices.

**KFDA** - Korea Food and Drug Administration The US and Europe are far behind Asian countries in wellness and public health. Water ionizers are used as medical devices in Korea. KFDA certification means that an ionizer is certified for use as a medical device in Korea.

**CE** - European Conformity The CE marketing is a mandatory conformity mark on many products placed on the single market in the European Economic Area (EFA). The CE marking certifies that a product has met EU consumer safety, health or environmental requirements.



**IEF** - International Electrotechnical Commission - The IEC is the world's leading organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. The IEC also manages conformity assessment systems that certify that equipment, systems or components conform to its International Standards.

## Water Ionizer Power Output

We recommend choosing an ionizer that utilizes the SMPS Power System. It doesn't make sense to purchase an ionizer built with outdated technology.

- High powered ionizers can produce strong alkaline water (10 or higher pH) for health issues and detoxification.
- The best ionizers are capable of producing water with an 8-9.5 pH range for daily drinking, while maintaining high antioxidant ORP levels. You need 9 plates and high power (350+ watts) Ionizer Power Output to obtain these levels.
- Underpowered ionizers with less than 9 plates will make ionized water that is not optimized for athletic performance or health issues.
- **Example:** The 7 plate Kangen® ionizer requires chemical additives to reach high pH and ORP levels. We suggest avoiding machines that require chemical additives.



### ORP & pH -

Machines with over 300 watts of available power performed the best during our testing. Since most ionizers can produce water with a 10 or higher pH, the best way to judge performance is to look at ORP levels. Nine or eleven plate ionizers with over 300 watts of power tend to produce the highest ORP.



<b>Ionizer</b>	<b>pH</b>	<b>ORP</b>
LIFE Ionizers®	2.0-12.0	up to -900
AlkaFresh™	5.5-10.5	up to -600
BionTech™	3.5-10	up to -500
EOS™	3.5-10	up to -250
IonCare™	3.5-9.5	up to -500
A20™	8.5-11.5	up to -450
Enagic®/Kangen®*	4.5-10.3	up to -612
KYK™	3-11	up to -350
Bawell™	3.2-10.5	up to -480
Jupiter™	2.8-11.3	up to -280
Alkazone™	4.0-10	up to -350
Chanson™	2.8-11.2	up to -500
Nexus™	3.0-11.0	up to -300
Alive/Real™ (Aqua Ionizer Deluxe 7.0)	7.5-9.1	+162

\*Without the use of additive chemicals

**Adjustable power for optimum performance** It is very important to make sure that the ionizer you purchase has adjustable settings so you can optimize the performance of your machine. Higher pH and ORP levels in water are created by higher power settings. Adjustable power settings allow fine tuning of machine performance based on your water source and other variations.

Precise power control maximizes ionization, detoxification and alkalization capabilities of the water produced. If you don't need optimum performance from your ionizer use one with single amperage setting, but our research shows that an ionizer with adjustable power provides better overall performance since water quality worldwide can vary.

**Adjustable  
Power Settings**

- LIFE Ionizers®
- AlkaFresh™

**Non-adjustable  
Power Settings**

- KYK Genesis™
- Enagic®/Kangen®
- Jupiter™
- Alkazon™
- EOS™
- IonCare™
- Biontech™

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## WATER IONIZER PLATES EXPLAINED

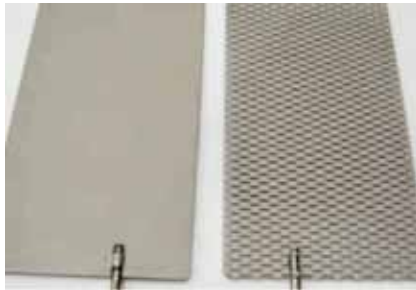
Ionizer plates are the expensive heart of the machine. The most ultimate quality machines have 13 plates. Advanced quality machines have 11 plates. Top quality ionizers have 9 titanium plates. Mid range systems have 7 plates and entry level machines have 5 plates. Most ionizer plates are made of titanium that are coated (dipped or sprayed) with platinum. Beware of Taiwan or Chinese models because many use inferior metals that can produce toxic water.

**Number of Plates:** The charts below show how much better a 9-plate machine performs than a 7-plate machine. A 9-plate or higher ionizer lasts longer because the additional plates distribute power more efficiently. A 7-plate machine is adequate for daily use but the 9-plate or higher systems are capable of maximizing the pH and ORP of drinking water which will deliver the greatest health benefits.



**Plate Size:** There are ionizer manufacturers who will argue that bigger is better. This can be true but large plates are only better if there is an adequate power supply. This is why we recommended earlier that you choose an ionizer with at least 300 watts of power.

**MESH vs Flat Plates:** MESH plates out-perform similarly sized flat plates because of simple physics. Electrolysis occurs more efficiently on the many edges of MESH plates than on the total shorter edges of flat plates. Water flowing in and out of the MESH surface provides longer contact time and therefore increases the amount of electrolysis which occurs. Our testing confirmed both of these facts. We found that the MESH plates consistently outperformed - providing about 4-10% better pH and ORP readings.



**Plexus Power Plates:** LIFE Ionizers recently introduced a new type of plate called Plexus Power Plates. These plates are a step above MESH plates. They offer even more edge-surface area, making stronger alkaline water. Additionally, Plexus Power Plates are a must have if you have hard water since they handle hard water deposits better than MESH or flat plates.

## Ionizer Plate Comparison

Our research shows SMPS Power Systems provide more power and is capable of providing higher pH and ORP water. We recommend that you choose a higher powered system with adjustable amperage, double-dipped MESH plates, or LIFE Ionizer’s new Plexus Power Plates. Ionizers with MESH plates and higher power or LIFE’s Plexus Power Plates outperform ionizers with larger flat plates and less power.

<b>Ionizer</b>	<b>Plates</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Plate Options</b>
LIFE Ionizers®	13	Large	Titanium/Platinum	Flat/Mesh/Plexus Power Plates
AlkaFresh™	9	Large	Titanium/Platinum	Flat/Mesh
BionTech™	9	Large	Titanium/Platinum	Flat
EOS™	9	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Flat/Mesh
IonCare™	7	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Flat/Mesh
A20™	5	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Flat
Enagic®/ Kangen®*	7	Large	Titanium/Platinum	Flat
KYK™	7	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Slotted
Bawell™	7	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Flat
Jupiter™	5	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Mesh
Alkazone™	5	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Flat
Chanson™	7	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Flat
Nexus™	5	Medium	Titanium/Platinum	Mesh
Alive/Real™ (Aqua Ionizer Deluxe 7.0)	7	Medium	Titanium/ No Platinum*	Flat

\*no platinum =significant health hazard

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## WATER IONIZER FILTRATION

As mentioned earlier in this guide, water quality is of utmost importance. Inadequate or minimal filtration can result in the production of unhealthy water and a reduction of machines lifespan! Hard water isn't the only concern. Nearly all tap water and well water supplies are contaminated with toxins.



Filtration is the all-important feature in determining how many contaminants are removed from your source water. If you are using city or county treated water, harmful contaminants will include a concentration of chloramines, chlorine, and other severe sanitizing chemicals used in municipal water systems disinfecting processes.



A new concern facing our county is heavy metals, contaminants, and psychiatric drugs that are flushed into water. The better the filtration system, the safer your family is from sediment, contaminants, and bacteria found in most water systems. We tested both dual and single internal filter systems. We recommend avoiding single filter systems because none performed very well when making water clean and safe.



## WARNING!

**Warning:** Filters used in water ionizers made by Enagic®/Kangen® do not reduce levels of heavy metal ions and salt found in tap water! These machines also may only reduce chlorine levels by 80%, which is inadequate. (Source: Enagic®/Kangen® website)



Source: [http://www.lifeionizers.com/filtration\\_comparison.html](http://www.lifeionizers.com/filtration_comparison.html)

This chart compares the single filter Enagic®/Kangen® with the multiple filter LIFE Ionizers®.

Amazingly, the testing showed that the Enagic®/Kangen® machine slightly increased the TDS levels!

Ionizers with dual internal filters and an additional pre-filter system provide the best, highest level filtration. Better companies will provide a free water report on your source water so that you will be aware of the potential contaminants in your area. If there are problems, the company should provide a free pre-filter to clean up the water before it goes into the ionizer's internal filter system.

**Reverse Osmosis:** You may need to use a reverse osmosis (RO) system to purify your water if you have severe water problems. It is necessary to use a mineral cartridge to re-mineralize the water if you are using an ionizer with an RO system. Water treated by RO cannot be ionized well unless it is remineralized because it has minimal minerals in it. You must remineralize water treated by RO before you drink it!

Research has shown that mineral deficient water will steal minerals from your body and lead to health issues.

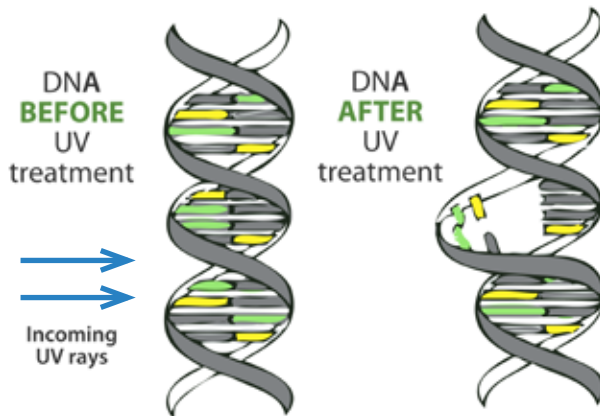
## **WATER IONIZER OPTIONS**

**Pre-Filtration:** We have discussed pre-filtration numerous times in this guide for a very good reason because wherever you live, it is very likely you have one or more toxins in your water. If you live in the Western United States or Canada you possibly have hard water. Pre-filtration is mandatory in order to ensure your water is clean and healthy and to protect your ionizer investment. Regardless of the brand you choose, we urge you to use pre-filtration for your own safety.

**UV Light Technology:** Many private and municipal water companies are switching to Ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection as an alternative to chemicals for public water supply disinfection because it is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The county of Orange County, California is the largest public utility to use UV Light treatment to make public water supplies safe. UV Light disinfection provides safe water for millions of people in southern California and other locations worldwide. This technology exposes water to UV light which addresses numerous kinds of biological contaminants in water plus it is effective against cysts and the parasites they create. Infected water can cause an upset stomach. Studies have shown that the gastric upset caused by infected tap water leads to many more serious diseases.

People with well water are at the highest risk for drinking infected water and rural water supplies aren't much better. We highly recommend opting for UV Light technology with your ionizer because of the serious threats posed to your health by drinking infected water.



**UV Light Disinfection works by damaging bacteria DNA**

**Countertop vs Under the Counter:** This choice is a matter of personal preference. Countertop ionizers are most desirable if you want to travel with your ionizer because they can be easily disconnected. If you want to keep a clean countertop, you should choose an under counter option. LIFE Ionizers® offers ionizers that can be used as countertop or installed under the counter making them great for home, travel or a vacation home!

Countertop vs. Under the Counter



Counter top

Undercounter

**Warning:** Many companies offer under the counter conversion kits but be aware of the fact that they are not all legal for use in all 50 states! Make sure that an ionizer's under the counter "hook up" is legal where you live prior to purchase.

<b>Ionizer</b>	<b>Pre-Filtration</b>	<b>UV Light</b>	<b>Countertop/ UnderCounter</b>
<b>LIFE Ionizers®</b>	Standard	Available	Available
<b>AlkaFresh™</b>	Standard	Available	Available
<b>BionTech™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>EOS™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>IonCare™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>A20™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>Enagic®/Kangen®*</b>	Optional	Not Available	Available
<b>KYK™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>Bawell™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>Jupiter™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Available
<b>Alkazone™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
<b>Chanson™</b>	Optional	Not Available	Available
<b>Nexus™</b>	Optional	Available	Availble
<b>Alive/Real™</b> (Aqua Ionizer Deluxe 7.0)	Optional	Not Available	Not Available

## HOW TO FIND A REPUTABLE IONIZER COMPANY

Research the company where you plan to purchase your ionizer. How long have they been in business in the USA? Is the company concerned about the water that goes into your ionizer. Do they answer the telephone when you call? Has the company received any product quality certifications? Do they provide optimum filtration? Are they endorsed by doctors and athletes? Are they a manufacturer or a distributor? Do they operate from a residence or a commercial building? These are all important questions and when these questions are answered correctly it is indicative of a quality company.



## RETURN POLICIES AND WARRANTIES

**Return Policies** - Prior to purchasing an ionizer you should research a company's return policy. We are aware of one company that has only a 7-30 day return policy and demand an \$800 restocking fee! A reputable company will accept returns up to 60 days. All companies charge a restocking fee but you should make sure you know how much they charge before you make your purchase - 15% is standard.

**Warranties** – A high quality ionizer should last a lifetime so it just makes sense that a high quality ionizer's warranty should also last a lifetime. Our research shows lifetime warranties share some common features:

- Companies that have been in business for over 10 years.
- SMPS Power - Transformers do not last a lifetime.
- Multiple internal filters and pre-filtration -  
Ionizers with inadequate filtration will succumb to hard water damage.

An ionizer with the features described above should be expected to have an unlimited lifetime warranty on both parts and labor. It is an excellent indicator that a company believes in its product if it is willing to guarantee both parts and labor on their ionizer for life. An unlimited lifetime warranty gives you the peace of mind you deserve when investing in a high end ionizer.



<b>Ionizer</b>	<b>Return Policy</b>	<b>Warranty</b>
<b>LIFE Ionizers®</b>	60 Days	Lifetime Parts/ Labor
<b>AlkaFresh™</b>	60 Days	Lifetime Parts/ 10 Years Labor
<b>BionTech™</b>	60 Days	5 Years Parts/ Labor
<b>EOS™</b>	60 Days	5 Years Parts/ Labor
<b>IonCare™</b>	60 Days	5 Years Parts/ Labor
<b>A20™</b>	60 Days	3 Years
<b>Enagic®/Kangen®*</b>	30 Days	5 Years Parts/ Labor
<b>KYK</b>	60 Days	10 Years Parts/Labor
<b>Bawell™</b>	Optional	Limited Lifetime
<b>Jupiter™</b>	60 Days	Lifetime Parts/ 5 Years Labor
<b>Alkazone™</b>	7 Days	Limited Lifetime Parts/Labor
<b>Chanson™</b>	60 Days	10 Years Parts/ Limited Labor
<b>Nexus™</b>	60 Days	10 Years Parts/Labor
<b>Alive/Real™</b> (Aqua Ionizer Deluxe 7.0)	60 Days	Lifetime Parts/ 5 Years Labor

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PURCHASING A WATER IONIZER

**How Long Has the Company been Distributing in North America?** It takes at least 2 to 3 years for a new company to run smoothly. If a new company opens, wait until it has proven itself.



**Endorsements and Testimonials:** Some opinions may be subjective opinions and motivated by other considerations but normally all the ones we've seen are about the great health results people have attained. If a company has been in business for a while, testimonials can be a good indicator of customer satisfaction. More credibility should be given to testimonials from professional athletes and health practitioners.

**Length of time in business:** How long a distributor has been in business and their treatment of customers is very important. Look for a company that has been in business at least 10 years or more with an established business presence. Even better, if they have international offices it shows that their brand is well accepted. Keep in mind that if a company goes out of business, they will not be around to honor your warranty or supply filters!

**Multi Level Marketing** Be very cautious of MLM companies. Their products may be adequate but you won't get the best value because inflated prices for multi-layered payout systems. MLM companies are not water filtration companies. They only sell ionizers so their units do not have the latest innovations and are behind the times.

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## GETTING THE BEST VALUE FOR YOUR BUDGET

### **Water Ionizers in the \$500 to \$995 range -**

These models are basic, entry-level, low-end systems. Component and material quality is sacrificed to keep low pricing. These machines usually use old-fashioned transformers and have a shorter warranty period. They have 5 or fewer plates and the platinum coating is thinner than higher quality models. Sometimes steel plates are used which do not perform well at all. These are “bare bones” models without many important features or functions. Performance is relatively low and their rate of returns for warranty defects is very high. Many of these machines are made in Taiwan or China and have lead contamination issues. Our recommendation is to avoid ionizers in this range.



### **Water Ionizers in the \$1000 to \$2000 range -**

These reliable mid-range models provide pH and ORP levels adequate for someone who wants to maintain their existing good health. Look for 5-7 plates and SMPS Power System. Models at the lower end of this price range often only have one internal filter so filtration is inadequate if your source water is below par. Models toward the top of this range offer some of the features and functions that the higher end models have.

### **Water Ionizers in the \$2000 to \$3000 range -**

These models usually incorporate the best features and functions available and use higher quality materials in their construction. Look for 9-11 plates in this price range with the higher quality SMPS Power System. Generally, these ionizers will provide the best results and are for people who are looking to optimize their health/sports performance or have health challenges. Some of these units in the higher end of the range incorporate a new technology that generates water with high antioxidant (ORP) at a drinkable pH. This is a very important feature to look for and only one company has it. In this range you will find a variety of options and functions that will enhance the performance of your water ionizer. Under the counter versions will typically run about \$500-\$600 above the countertop version cost.

## **Water Ionizers over \$3000 -**

Residential ionizers that cost around \$4000 such as Enagic®/Kangen® are overpriced, often because they are sold through an MLM system. Commercial-grade ionizers cost more than \$3000 but they produce a significant larger amount of water than residential ionizers. The extra cost also reflects the materials used to build them.



We hope this information has been helpful to you.

Confused?  
Call Us With Your Ionizer Questions

**877-819-1292**

[info@alkalinewaterionizerreviews.com](mailto:info@alkalinewaterionizerreviews.com)

# 15 things you need to know before buying a water ionizer

This buyer's guide was written to aid you in understanding the complex world of water ionizers. Some information came from manufacturer's websites and was confirmed by our staff. Inside you will find easy to understand explanations of terms used to describe water ionizers. These terms were used to point out features and functions that you must look for when finding an ionizer to suit your needs. When you use this guide you will learn:

- *How to choose a reputable company*
- *How to choose the ionizer that best fits your lifestyle*
- *Water Ionizer Technology*
- *How to find a high quality ionizer*

**\$7.97 USD**