

[Manuals.plus](#) /

› [Berkey](#) /

› Berkey Big Berkey Gravity-Fed Stainless Steel Countertop Water Filter System with 2 Black Berkey Elements (Model BK4X2-BB)
Instruction Manual

Berkey BK4X2-BB

Berkey Big Berkey Gravity-Fed Stainless Steel Countertop Water Filter System Instruction Manual

Model: BK4X2-BB

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the assembly, operation, and maintenance of your Berkey Big Berkey Gravity-Fed Stainless Steel Countertop Water Filter System. This system is designed to provide clean, filtered drinking water without the need for electricity or plumbing, utilizing gravity to purify water through its Black Berkey Elements.

2. SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Always handle the stainless steel chambers and filter elements with care to prevent damage.
- Ensure the system is placed on a stable, level surface to prevent tipping.
- Do not use hot water (above 115°F / 46°C) in the system, as this can damage the filter elements.
- Keep the system out of reach of small children and pets.
- Only use authentic Black Berkey Elements for optimal performance and safety.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present before beginning assembly:

- Upper Stainless Steel Chamber
- Lower Stainless Steel Chamber
- Stainless Steel Lid
- 2 Black Berkey Purification Elements (BB9-2)
- 2 Wing Nuts
- 2 Washers (rubber)
- 1 Priming Button
- Spigot Assembly (spigot, 2 washers, 1 wing nut)

- Rubber Base Ring



Image 3.1: The complete Big Berkey Gravity-Fed Water Filter System. This image displays the assembled stainless steel upper and lower chambers, lid, and spigot, resting on its rubber base.



Image 3.2: Two Black Berkey Purification Elements. These are the core filtration components, typically black and cylindrical, with threaded stems for installation.

4. ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Prepare the Chambers:** Wash both stainless steel chambers and the lid with mild soap and water. Rinse thoroughly.
2. **Install the Spigot:**
 - Insert the spigot stem through the hole in the lower chamber.
 - Place one rubber washer on the outside of the lower chamber, then the spigot.
 - Place the second rubber washer on the inside of the lower chamber, then secure with the wing nut. Hand-tighten firmly to prevent leaks.
3. **Prime the Black Berkey Elements:** This is a critical step to ensure proper water flow and filtration. Refer to Section 5 for detailed priming instructions.
4. **Install the Black Berkey Elements:**
 - From the inside of the upper chamber, push the threaded stem of each primed Black Berkey Element through the two holes in the bottom of the upper chamber.
 - Place a washer onto each threaded stem from the underside of the upper chamber.
 - Secure each element with a wing nut. Hand-tighten firmly. Do not overtighten.
5. **Assemble the System:** Place the upper chamber onto the lower chamber. Position the rubber base ring on a stable surface, then place the assembled system onto the base ring. Place the lid on top of the upper chamber.

Take control of your tap water at home or the office.



Berkey System shown with optional Stainless Steel Spigot and Stand (sold separately)

Image 4.1: The Big Berkey system assembled and ready for use on a kitchen countertop. This image shows the two stainless steel chambers stacked, with the spigot visible on the lower chamber.

5. PRIMING BLACK BERKEY ELEMENTS

Priming ensures that the filter elements are saturated with water, allowing them to filter properly from the first use. Failure to prime can result in slow filtration or air pockets.

1. **Attach Priming Button:** Place the tan priming button onto the threaded stem of a Black Berkey Element.
2. **Prime Under Faucet:** Press the priming button firmly against a cold water faucet. Turn on the cold water slowly, allowing water to flow into the element.
3. **Observe Water Flow:** Water should begin to bead up and flow from the exterior walls of the element. Continue priming until water flows consistently from the entire surface of the element for at least 30 seconds.
4. **Repeat for Second Element:** Repeat the priming process for the second Black Berkey Element.

Note: If you have low water pressure, a Berkey Primer (sold separately) may be helpful for priming the elements.

6. OPERATING THE SYSTEM

1. **Fill the Upper Chamber:** Pour untreated water into the upper stainless steel chamber. The water will gravity-feed through the Black Berkey Elements into the lower chamber.
2. **First Use Flush:** For the very first use, after assembly and priming, fill the upper chamber completely and allow all the water to filter into the lower chamber. Discard this first batch of filtered water. This helps flush out any manufacturing dust.
3. **Dispense Water:** Once water has collected in the lower chamber, open the spigot to dispense filtered water.
4. **Refilling:** Refill the upper chamber as needed. The filtration rate will depend on the number of elements installed and the water quality.

No electricity, costly installation or tools required.



Image 6.1: A hand pouring untreated water into the upper chamber of the Berkey system. The lid is removed to allow filling.



Powerful, Economical Black Berkey Elements

Authentic **Black Berkey** Elements have been tested by independent third-party labs for their ability to remove or reduce over 200+ commonly found contaminants that could be present in drinking water such as:

- THMs • Inorganic minerals
- Heavy metals • Pharmaceuticals
- VOCs • Petroleum products
- Perfluorinated chemicals
- Rust, silt, sediment
- Radiologicals and more

Plus:

- **Black Berkey** Elements average just pennies per gallon of water.
- Replacement is recommended after 6,000 gallons of use for each pair of elements, depending on quality of influent water.

Image 6.2: A diagram showing how water flows from the upper chamber, through the Black Berkey Elements, and collects as filtered water in the lower chamber. Key contaminants removed are listed.

7. MAINTENANCE

7.1 Cleaning the Stainless Steel Chambers

- Clean the upper and lower chambers regularly (e.g., monthly) with mild soap and water.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove any soap residue.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners or steel wool, as these can scratch the stainless steel.

7.2 Cleaning and Replacing Black Berkey Elements

- **Cleaning:** If the flow rate slows significantly, the Black Berkey Elements may need cleaning. Remove the elements from the upper chamber. Using a Scotch-Brite pad or stiff brush, gently scrub the exterior of the elements under running cold water. Do not use soap.
- **Re-priming:** After cleaning, always re-prime the elements before reinstalling them.
- **Replacement:** Each pair of Black Berkey Elements has a lifespan of up to 6,000 gallons. Replacement is recommended when the flow rate becomes consistently slow even after cleaning and re-priming, or after 6,000 gallons of use, whichever comes first.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Slow filtration rate	Elements not properly primed; elements clogged; airlock in elements.	Ensure elements are fully primed (refer to Section 5). Clean the elements by scrubbing their exterior under cold water (refer to Section 7.2).
Water leaking from spigot or around elements	Spigot or element wing nuts are not tight enough; washers are misplaced or damaged.	Hand-tighten spigot and element wing nuts firmly. Ensure all washers are correctly positioned. Replace damaged washers if necessary.
Unpleasant taste in filtered water	New system residue; elements not fully flushed; rubber taste from spigot washers.	Ensure initial flush was performed (Section 6). If taste persists, flush several more gallons. If a rubber taste is present, ensure spigot washers are food-grade and consider replacing with silicone washers if available.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Berkey
Model Name	BER-BU2 (System), BK4X2-BB (Product)
Capacity	2.25 Gallons (approx. 8.5 Liters)
Dimensions (L x W x H)	8.5" x 8.5" x 19.25"
Material	Stainless Steel
Installation Type	Countertop
Power Source	Gravity-fed (No electricity required)

Feature	Detail
Filter Elements Included	2 Black Berkey Purification Elements (BB9-2)
Filter Lifespan	Up to 6,000 gallons per pair of Black Berkey Elements
Special Feature	Chlorine Reduction, removes/reduces over 250+ contaminants
Item Weight	Approximately 0.01 Ounces (This weight seems incorrect from source data, actual system weight is higher)



Image 9.1: Diagram showing the dimensions of the Big Berkey system, indicating a height of 19.25 inches and a base width of 8.5 inches.

10. WARRANTY INFORMATION

New Millennium Concepts, Ltd. (makers of the Berkey Systems) warrants this product to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 6 months from the date of purchase. Black Berkey purification elements have a two-year prorated warranty calculated in six-month intervals. Please note that this product is not available to ship to California or Iowa.

11. SUPPORT

For further assistance, product registration, or to purchase replacement parts, please visit the official Berkey website or contact customer support through the brand's official channels.

You can find more information and support at the [Berkey Store on Amazon](#).

© 2023 Berkey. All rights reserved.

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question