

# Kenmore® Freestanding Water Optimizer Freestanding Purifier·Dispenser

Model: KM5K

**Customer Assistance**  
**1-844-374-6576**

[www.kenmore.com](http://www.kenmore.com)

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# Important Safety Instructions

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When using electrical appliances, basic safety precautions should always be followed, including the following:

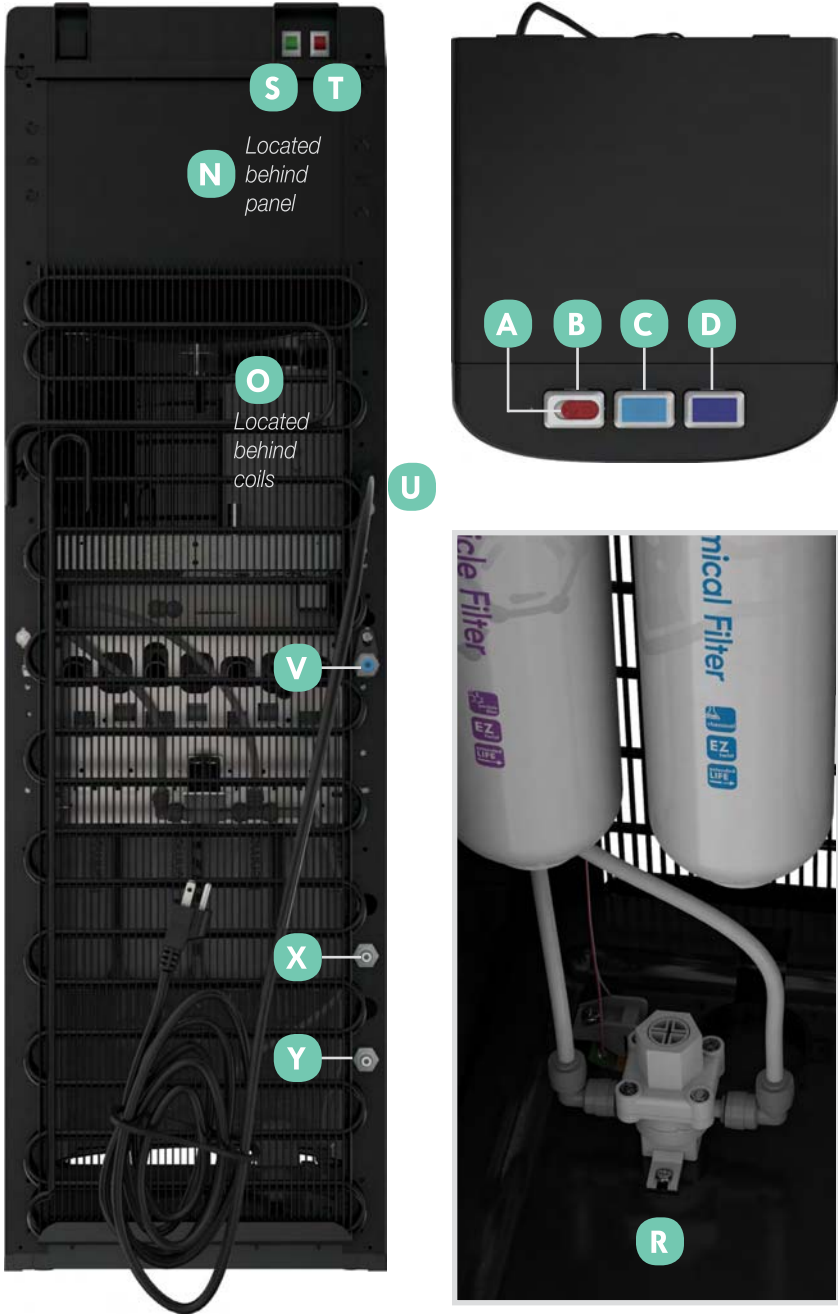
1. Read all instructions.
2. Should your appliance ever fail, please disconnect the power and water immediately before calling for assistance.
3. To avoid leakage and damage, never remove appliance parts.
4. Unsupervised children should not be allowed to operate the machine.
5. Please use the product in a dry place within the temperature ranges of 40°F and 100°F.
6. Ensure the power cord is always unplugged before performing any maintenance, troubleshooting, or filter upgrades.
7. Only use Kenmore or Drinkpod accessories and filters to avoid causing damage and voiding product warranty.
8. For all service and support related issues, please immediately contact support at 1-844-374-6576, or email us at [support@drinkpod.com](mailto:support@drinkpod.com).
9. Any and all repairs should only be attempted by qualified persons designated by Kenmore.
10. Do not install the machine in a location exposed to direct sunlight.
11. Never store or expose your Water Optimizer in an environment less than 32°F.
12. This appliance is not intended for use by persons with reduced physical, sensory, or mental capabilities, or lack of experience and knowledge, unless they have been given supervision or instruction concerning use of the appliance by a person responsible for their safety. Children should be supervised to ensure they do not play with the appliance.
13. If the supply cord is damaged, it must be replaced by the manufacturer, one of its designated service agents, or similarly qualified person, in order to avoid all hazards.
14. Do not store explosive substances such as aerosol cans, or other items with a flammable propellant, in this appliance.
15. This appliance is intended to be used in household and similar applications, kitchens, offices, and similar non-retail applications.
16. The appliance should only be plugged into a grounded three prong socket. A surge protector is recommended.
17. The appliance should never be turned upside down, or tilted more than 45°.
18. The appliance should never be cleaned utilizing a compressed water stream.
19. This product is designed for household use only!
20. **WARNING:** To avoid any hazards due to instability of the appliance, it must be installed, maintained, and repaired, in accordance with this manual.

## SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS!

# Getting To Know Your Water Optimizer



# Getting To Know Your Water Optimizer



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## Product Features

- A** **Child Safety Switch** - Prevents small children from dispensing hot water.
- B** **Hot Mode Button** - Press in conjunction with safety switch to dispense hot water.
- C** **Ambient Mode Button** - Press to dispense ambient temperature water.
- D** **Cold Mode Button** - Press to dispense cold water.
- E** **Cooling System Status Light** - When lit, indicates cooling system is active.
- F** **Heating System Status Light** - When lit, indicates heating system is active.
- G** **Water Flow Status Light** - When lit, indicates cold water is replenishing.
- H** **Hot Water Dispenser** - Spout from which hot water dispenses.
- I** **Ambient Water Dispenser** - Spout from which ambient water dispenses.
- J** **Cold Water Dispenser** - Spout from which cold water dispenses.
- K** **Drip Tray** - Tray that sets above reservoir to rest cups on when dispensing.
- L** **Drip Reservoir** - Collects errant water. Removable for dumping.
- M** **Stainless Steel Cabinet Door** - Conceals filtration system and leak detector.
- N** **Cold Water Tank** - Stores chilled water prior to dispensing.
- O** **Hot Water Tank** - Stores heated water prior to dispensing.
- P** **Internal Filter Mounts** - Mounting point for filter cartridges.
- Q** **Filters** - Assorted filter cartridges. See more in [“Filter Details” on page 4](#).
- R** **Leak Detection Sensor** - Detects internal leaks. If triggered, disables water flow.
- S** **Cold Mode Power Switch** - Toggles power for water cooling system.

# Getting To Know Your Water Optimizer

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- T** Hot Mode Power Switch - Toggles power for water heating system.
- U** 110v Power Cord - Provides power to Water Optimizer. Standard U.S. 110v only.
- V** Drain Port - Port for draining water for vacations, storage, moving, etc.
- X** Accessory Output Port - Port to connect accessory appliances (i.e. icemaker).
- Y** Source Input Port - Port that connects to water source to provide water to Optimizer.

## Filters

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Shown above is the correct order (first four) each filter should always be installed in your Water Optimizer. Failure to follow this order can result in both reduced water flow, and filter lifespan.

**F1. Particle Filter** (Included) - Particle water filter replacement pod utilizes depth filter to greatly reduce contaminants greater than 10 microns in size (i.e. cysts and rust).

**F2. Chemical Filter** (Included) - The Chemical water filter replacement pod utilizes a activated carbon granules to improve the safety of drinking water by effectively



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removing common disinfection byproducts (THMs), organic contaminants like chlorinated solvents and other industrial pollutants, pesticides, and select heavy metals such as lead and mercury. The process reduces undesirable taste, odor, and color.

**F3. ULTRA Filter** (Included) ULTRA water filter replacement pod utilizes a UF membrane to remove contaminants greater than 0.02 microns in size (i.e. bacteria, colloids, and large organic molecules).

**F4. Polishing Filter** (Included) - Polishing water filter replacement pod utilizes activated carbon block filter to remove eliminate odors and discoloration in your water, while also improving taste. Additionally, it provides secondary particle and chemical filtration.

**F5. ULTRA+3 Hybrid Filter** (Sold Separately) - ULTRA+3 hybrid water filter replacement pod utilizes activated carbon block filter (first stage) to greatly reduce particles, eliminate odors and discoloration, and reduce chemicals in your water, while also improving taste. This is followed by a UF membrane (2nd stage) that greatly reduces sub micron contaminants, like bacteria, colloids, and large organic molecules, down to 0.02 microns. **The use of this filter is not recommended for this appliance.**

# Getting To Know Your Water Optimizer

## Technical Specifications

Model	KM5K
Rated Power	520 Watts
Heating Power	420 Watts
Refrigeration Power	90 Watts
Water Production Power	10 Watts
Rated Pure Water Flow	0.32 gal/min [43.5 psi] (1.2 L/min [0.3 MPa])
Hot Water Production	1.01 gal/hr $\geq$ 185°F (4 L/hr $\geq$ 85°C)
Hot Water Storage	0.26 gal (1 liter)
Cold Water Production	0.53 gal/hr $\leq$ 50°F (2 L/hr $\leq$ 10°C)
Cold Water Storage	1.1 gal (4.16 liters)
Environmental Temperature Requirements	40°F - 100°F (4.44°C - 37.78°C)
Environmental Humidity Requirements	$\leq$ 90%
Water Pressure Requirements	14.5 psi - 58psi (0.1 MPa - 0.4 MPa)
Water Source Quality	Tap Water
Appliance Size	12.25 in. (310 mm) x 14.17 in. (360mm) x 40.94 in. (1040 mm)
Appliance Weight	40.6 lbs (18.4 kg)
Operating Pressure (all filters)	14.5 ~ 58 PSI
Operating Temperature (all filters)	34°F ~ 100°F
PH Range (all filters)	5 - 10
Max Hardness (all filters)	Below 300 ppm
<b>Pod Filter #1 Details</b>	Sediment Depth Filter Material: PP (Polypropylene) Flow Rate: 0.79 gpm Pore Size: 10 microns Lifespan: 950 gal / 6 - 12 months
<b>Pod Filter #2 Details</b>	GAC (Granular Activated Carbon) Material: Coconut Flow Rate: 0.79 gpm Passage Size: 12 - 40 Mesh Lifespan: 1900 gal / 18 - 24 months
<b>Pod Filter #3 Details</b>	Ultra Filtration (UF) Membrane Passage Mineral Filter Material: PE (Polyethylene) Flowrate: 0.53 gpm Pore Size: 0.1 - 0.02 microns Lifespan: 1425 gal / 12 - 18 months
<b>Pod Filter #4 Details</b>	Post Carbon Block Material: Coconut Based Flow Rate: 0.79 gpm Pore Size: 7 microns Lifespan: 950 gal / 6 - 12 months

# Using Your Water Optimizer

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## Regarding Connecting Other Appliances

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1. *Prior to connecting/disconnecting other appliances to the accessory port, first power off and unplug your Water Optimizer.*
2. *The manufacturer is not responsible for any issues or damage that may occur to other appliances connected to your Kenmore Water Optimizer. These issues may include, but are not limited to: dry heating, low flow, water sloshing, etc. Kenmore and Drinkpod are in now way obligated to provide technical support, warranty service or replacement for any parts or components not included with your Optimizer, excluding OEM replacement filters. This guide will explain how to use, maintain, and troubleshoot your new Water Optimizer.*

# Using Your Water Optimizer

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Be sure to complete all of the applicable instructions in the Installation Guide, included with your Optimizer prior to using the appliance.

## Powering On/Off Your Optimizer

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Be sure to never plug in your Optimizer, or power on either temperature mode before you've connected a proper water source, and enabled water flow.

1. To power on your Water Optimizer, simply plug in **U** 110v Power Cord into a 110 volt electrical outlet. To power off, unplug the appliance.
2. To power on the **cooling system**, flip the green **S** Cold Mode Power Switch (on the left) up, into the on position. To power off, flip back down.
3. To power on the **heating system**, flip the red **T** Hot Mode Power Switch (right) up, into the on position. To power off, flip back down.

## Dispensing Water

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1. To dispense cold water, simply press the dark blue **D** Cold Mode Button until your cup or container has reached the desired fill.
2. To dispense cold water, simply press the Light blue **C** Ambient Mode Button until your cup or container has reached the desired fill.
3. To dispense hot water, slide the red **A** Child Safety Switch to the left, then while holding it in this position with your thumb or finger, press the **B** Hot Mode Button until your cup or container has reached the desired fill.

# Maintaining Your Water Optimizer

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## Replacing Your Water Optimizer's Filters

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To maximize filter and appliance lifespan, it is very important to always flush the

**F2** Chemical Filter and the **F4** Polishing Filter prior to installing them into your Water Optimizer.

For this step, you will need a towel, a container to catch water, and your **Filter Flushing Setup** you assembled during installation.

1. Unplug **U** 110v Power Cord from the electrical outlet.
2. Shutoff water flow to your appliance by turning the blue handle on the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve (see **Installation Guide**) connected to your Optimizer's **Y** Source Input Port located at the back of the appliance.
3. Place your container below the center dispenser, and press the **C** Ambient Mode Button to depressurize the system, by dispensing water into a cup.
4. If you aren't replacing the **F2** Chemical Filter or the **F4** Polishing Filter you can skip ahead to "Step 9" on page 9.
5. Disconnect the tubing running between our Optimizer's **Y** Source Input Port and the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve you just shutoff, and place end of the tubing into the container to catch any water that drains back.
6. Connect the open end of the tubing from your **Filter Flushing Setup** to the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve that you just disconnected.
7. Connect the filter(s) listed above that you are replacing to the **G** Filter Flushing Attachment, and flush by opening the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve, until the water exiting the filter is clear. Be sure to aim the water outlet on the attachment into your container.
8. Now, disconnect the **G** Filter Flushing Setup from the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve and reattach it to the **Y** Source Input Port
9. Next open the **M** Stainless Steel Cabinet Door by pulling outward on the right side.
10. Lay a towel down across the base of the bottom plate, to catch any water that drips

# Maintaining Your Water Optimizer

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down, and prevent triggering **R** [Leak Detection Sensor](#).

11. Replace the applicable filters in the following order. Filters can be removed by twisting counter clockwise. To insert new filters, press filter upward into **P** [Internal Filter Mounts](#) while twisting clockwise.

**F1** [Particle Filter](#)

**F2** [Chemical Filter](#)

**F3** [ULTRA Filter](#)

**F4** [Polishing Filter](#)

12. Close **M** [Stainless Steel Cabinet Door](#), and discard the old filters.

13. Open the **C** [1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve](#), to enable water flow.

14. Place your container below the center dispenser one last time, and press the **C** [Ambient Mode Button](#) to repressurize the system. Once water is steadily dispensing, you can stop.

15. Finally, plug **U** [110v Power Cord](#) back into the electrical outlet. You're finished!

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## Storing & Relocating Your Water Optimizer

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At some point, you may need to store or relocate your Water Optimizer. Should one of these situations be the case for you, below are a few simple steps to prevent any damage from occurring.

1. If applicable, first flip **T** Hot Mode Power Switch and **S** Cold Mode Power Switch into the down position to power off the heating and cooling systems.
2. Next, unplug **U** 110v Power Cord from the electrical outlet.
3. Shutoff water flow to your appliance by turning the blue handle on the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve (see Installation Guide) connected to your Optimizer's **Y** Source Input Port located at the back of the appliance.
4. Place a container below the each of the dispensers, and dispense water from each of the three temperature modes until no more water will come out.
5. Next, if applicable, shutoff the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve connected between your Optimizer's **X** Accessory Output Port and any accessory appliances (i.e. coffee maker) and disconnect the tubing from the port. Placing a towel underneath your ports will help save time cleaning up drippage.
6. Make any necessary adjustments to your accessory appliances in lieu of them no longer receiving water (i.e. powering them off in necessary).
7. Disconnect the tubing running between our Optimizer's **Y** Source Input Port and the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve you just shutoff, and place end of the tubing into a container to catch any water that drains back.
8. Now place your container at the back of the Optimizer below **V** Drain Port.
9. Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove the transparent plastic cap that covers **V** Drain Port and remove it.
10. Next, remove the blue silicon drain plug from the drain, and tilt the Water Optimizer backwards (no more than 45 degrees), allowing the water to drain from the appliance.

# Maintaining Your Water Optimizer

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11. Once you've drained as much water as will come out from your Optimizer, reinsert the **blue silicon drain plug**, and reattach the **transparent plastic cap** and screw.
12. Finally, remove each of the four **Q Filters**. **If the filters will not be used for more than a few days, we highly recommend discarding them, and replacing them with new ones, to avoid any bacteria or mold growth issues. Storing them in your refrigerator may extend this time, but results will vary.**

## Leaving Your Water Optimizer (Vacation)

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If you plan to take a trip, and leave your Water Optimizer for more than a few days, We highly recommend following the steps below prior to leaving. This will help prevent any damage from occurring, the rare possibility of leaks, and returning to poor tasting water.

1. If applicable, first flip **T Hot Mode Power Switch** and **S Cold Mode Power Switch** into the down position to power off the heating and cooling systems.
2. Next, unplug **U 110v Power Cord** from the electrical outlet.
3. Shutoff water flow to your appliance by turning the blue handle on the **C 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve (see Installation Guide)** connected to your Optimizer's **Y Source Input Port** located at the back of the appliance.
4. Place a container below the each of the dispensers, and dispense water from each of the three temperature modes until no more water will come out.
5. **If you plan to leave your Optimizer longer than a week, we highly recommend following the remaining steps. If you're leaving for less than a week, we simply recommend flushing 1 gallon of water from each of your temperature modes prior to drinking.**
6. Next, if applicable, shutoff the **C 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve** connected between your Optimizer's **X Accessory Output Port** and any accessory appliances (i.e. coffee maker) and disconnect the tubing from the port. Placing a towel underneath your ports will help save time cleaning up drippage.
7. Make any necessary adjustments to your accessory appliances in lieu of them



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no longer receiving water (i.e. powering them off in necessary). Disconnect the tubing running between our Optimizer's **Y** Source Input Port and the **C** 1/4 in. Quick Connect Shutoff Valve you just shutoff, and place end of the tubing into a container to catch any water that drains back.

8. Now place your container at the back of the Optimizer below **V** Drain Port.
9. Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove the transparent plastic cap that covers **V** Drain Port and remove it.
10. Next, remove the blue silicon drain plug from the drain, and tilt the Water Optimizer backwards (**no more than 45 degrees**), allowing the water to drain from the appliance.
11. Once you've drained as much water as will come out from your Optimizer, reinsert the blue silicon drain plug, and reattach the transparent plastic cap and screw.
12. Finally, remove each of the four **Q** Filters. **If the filters will not be used for more than a few days, we highly recommend discarding them, and replacing them with new ones, to avoid any bacteria or mold growth issues. Storing them in your refrigerator may extend this time, but results will vary.**

# Troubleshooting Your Water Optimizer

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# Troubleshooting Your Water Optimizer

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Below are some simple steps to troubleshoot the most frequent issues our users experience. If your issue is not listed in this section, or you feel in any way confused, please feel free to contact us.

Call us at [1-844-374-6576](tel:1-844-374-6576), or email us at [support@drinkpod.com](mailto:support@drinkpod.com).

## **Issue #1: My Water Optimizer is dispensing slowly.**

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**Solution 1:** Check to ensure your home's water line is providing sufficient water pressure.

**Solution 2:** Something may be restricting water flow. Is a section of tubing pinched? Are all of the valves between your water source and the Optimizer open as far as they'll go?

**Solution 3:** Your filters may need replaced. Filters will slowly become more clogged by the contaminants they filter out, slowing water flow. The lifespans we list are average, and may vary greatly for those with abnormally high contaminants in their water.

## **Issue #2: My filter lifespan seems very short.**

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**Solution 1:** Are your filters in the wrong order? Review the order in which you've installed your filters, and ensure they match the correct order shown here, "[Filter Details](#)" on [page 4](#). Instructions for moving and replacing filters can be found here, "[Replacing Your 's Filters](#)" on [page 9](#).

**Solution 2:** Filters will slowly become more clogged by the contaminants they filter out, slowing water flow. The lifespans we list are average, and may vary greatly for those with abnormally high contaminants in their water.

## **Issue #3: My Water Optimizer isn't powering on.**

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**Solution 1:** Check to make sure GFI (red and black buttons on certain electrical outlets) has not been tripped. If it has, reset it. If it trips again, you have a short somewhere. We highly recommend calling a professional electrician.

**Solution 2:** Check your electrical circuit breaker.

**Solution 3:** Test your electrical outlet with another device.

**Solution 4:** Contact support at [1-844-374-6576](tel:1-844-374-6576), or email us at [support@drinkpod.com](mailto:support@drinkpod.com).

# Troubleshooting Your Water Optimizer

## Issue #4: My Water Optimizer's Hot Mode won't dispense.

**Solution 1:** Slide **A** Child Safety Switch to unlock **B** Hot Mode Button before pressing the button. This is a two-step child protection sequence.

**Solution 2:** Check water source line is turned on at source connection and water is flowing into the of Optimizer.

**Solution 3:** During shipment – the internal connecting rod (that connects **B** Hot Mode Button to the hot water dispense valve) may have slipped off the plunger. To fix, remove the top screws on back of unit. Lift from the appliance's top panel from the back, pivoting up and pulling out. You can locate the connecting rods in front of the (large upper) **N** Cold Water Tank, directly under the row of 3 dispense buttons. Locate the hot dispense connecting rod and reattach. Reference the other 2 rods as examples of how it connects.

**Solution 4:** Have you just dispensed a large amount of cold water? This model of Kenmore Water Optimizer is gravity fed. This means that **O** Hot Water Tank feeds from **N** Cold Water Tank. If the cold tank water level is depleted by more than half, the water level will be below the riser tube, and hot water will not dispense until the cold tank has refilled (see diagram below).

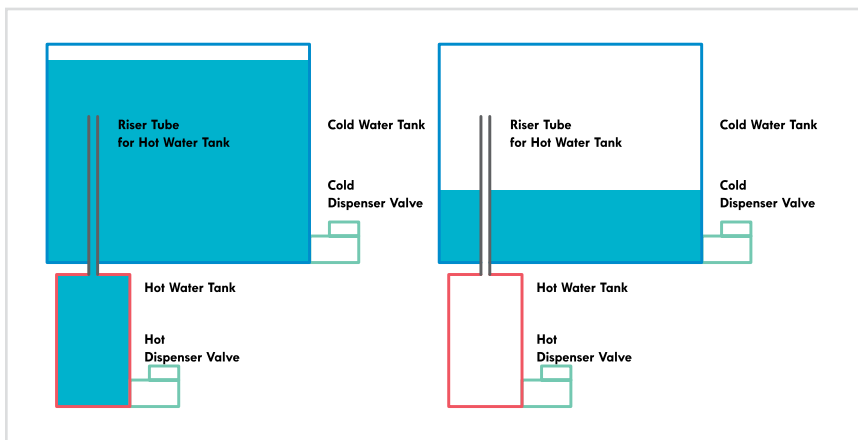


Diagram 4.3 - Gravy System With & Without Sufficient Cold Water

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### **Issue #5: My Water Optimizer's Hot Mode isn't hot.**

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Please note, this appliance is heating system is preset to a temperature range of 172.4°F - 194°F (78°C - 90°C). This temperature is not adjustable.

**Solution 1:** Flip **T** **Hot Mode Power Switch** up to "ON" / "I" position at rear of the appliance.

### **Issue #6: My Water Optimizer's Cold Mode isn't cold.**

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Please note, this appliance is cooling system is preset to a temperature range of 39.2°F - 42.8°F (4°C - 6°C). This temperature is not adjustable.

**Solution 1:** Flip **S** **Cold Mode Power Switch** up to "ON" / "I" position at rear of the appliance.

**Solution 2:** **N** **Cold Water Tank** water level may have been drained and exhausted by above average use, and requires sufficient time to replenish.

**Solution 3:** Compressor may have failed or lost the R-134A refrigerant. If compressor is running continuously and/or feels extremely hot to touch, power off **S** **Cold Mode Power Switch**, and contact support at 1-844-374-6576, or [support@drinkpod.com](mailto:support@drinkpod.com).

### **Issue #7: My Water Optimizer is beeping or lights are flashing.**

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When your Water Optimizer's beeping and/or the status lights are blinking (sometimes all 3 or just one red light), it means that the **Leak Detection Sensor** has detected water and shut down the system as a pre-caution against flooding. This is why we recommend laying a towel down over the sensor when setting up the unit or changing filters, so as not to get water onto the interior base.

To clear/reset: Unplug the **U** **110v Power Cord**. Open the **M** **Stainless Steel Cabinet Door** to filter area to inside. Trace the white wire (with red stripe) running down to the base, on left side behind the filters, to the **R** **Leak Detection Sensor**. Remove the screw on the mounting bracket. Lift out the **Leak Detection Sensor** (looks like a circuit board). Dry it thoroughly, and then dry out the entire cavity. Re-plug the unit to power to reset the program. Check for any leaking water. Reinstall the **Leak Detection Sensor**, mounting bracket, and screw. Good to go!

# Troubleshooting Your Water Optimizer

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## **Issue #8:** My Water Optimizer is leaking water.

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**Solution 1:** Follow the leak to its source. There may be a section of tubing that has a loose connection that requires reattaching. Check by pushing tube inwards till it stops, then pulling outward (if Quick Connect/has sleeve) to ensure it is properly gripping.

**Solution 2:** Check for disconnected tubing or water line or filter connection throughout unit.

**Solution 3:** Check for broken, cracked or weak fitting connections.

**Solution 4:** Contact support at 1-844-374-6576, or email us at [support@drinkpod.com](mailto:support@drinkpod.com).







# Warranty

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## **KENMORE LIMITED WARRANTY**

FOR TWO YEARS from the date of sale this appliance is warranted against defects in material or workmanship when it is correctly installed, operated and maintained according to all supplied instructions.

WITH PROOF OF SALE a defective appliance will receive free repair or replacement at option of seller:

### **Drinkpod, LLC 1-844-374-6576**

This warranty applies for only 90 DAYS from the date of sale if this appliance is ever used for other than private household purposes.

This warranty covers ONLY defects in material and workmanship, and will NOT pay for:

1. Expendable items that can wear out from normal use, including but not limited to filters, belts, bags or screw-in base light bulbs.
2. A service technician to clean or maintain this appliance, or to instruct the user in correct appliance installation, operation and maintenance.
3. Service calls to correct appliance installation not performed by Sears authorized service agents, or to repair problems with house fuses, circuit breakers, house wiring, and plumbing or gas supply systems resulting from such installation.
4. Damage to or failure of this appliance resulting from installation not performed by Sears authorized service agents, including installation that was not in accord with electrical, gas or plumbing codes.
5. Damage to or failure of this appliance, including discoloration or surface rust, if it is not correctly operated and maintained according to all supplied instructions.
6. Damage to or failure of this appliance, including discoloration or surface rust, resulting from accident, alteration, abuse, misuse or use for other than its intended purpose.
7. Damage to or failure of this appliance, including discoloration or surface rust, caused by the use of detergents, cleaners, chemicals or utensils other than those recommended in all instructions supplied with the product.
8. Damage to or failure of parts or systems resulting from unauthorized modifications made to this appliance.
9. Service to an appliance if the model and serial plate is missing, altered, or cannot easily be determined to have the appropriate certification logo.

Disclaimer of implied warranties; limitation of remedies

Customer's sole and exclusive remedy under this limited warranty shall be product repair or replacement as provided herein. Implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, are limited to one year or the shortest period allowed by law. Seller shall not be liable for incidental or consequential damages. Some states and provinces do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitation on the duration of implied warranties of merchantability or fitness, so these exclusions or limitations may not apply to you.

This warranty applies only while this appliance is used in the United States.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Sears Brands Management Corporation, Hoffman Estates, IL 60179

# Kenmore®

## Customer Care Hotline

For technical support, warranty  
repair service, or to order  
replacement parts.

# 1-844-374-6576



S/N STICKER GOES HERE