

HISTORY OF DESALINATION

WHAT IS DESALINATION?

Desalination involves the removal of dissolved salt and other impurities from seawater to produce fresh drinking water.

HOW LONG HAS DESALINATION BEEN USED?

It's a process that's been used for hundreds of years around the world.

In fact, the Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote about the desalting of seawater in his treatise, *Meteorologica*, back in the 4th Century BC.



It wasn't until 1869 though that the British government built a distillation plant that produced freshwater from seawater in what is now Yemen. This plant heated volumes of seawater to produce water vapor, which then condensed to produce fresh drinking water for British sailors travelling the world.



Several countries in the Middle East built distillation plants in the 1930s. Then as technology developed, the first desalination plants began appearing in the United States and Spain during the 1960s.

The desalination plants used a revolutionary technology known as reverse osmosis to separate the salt from the seawater to produce fresh drinking water.

