

How a desalination plant works

The Cape May desalination plant will use reverse osmosis to remove salt from well water. Here's how it will work:

1. Brackish water from the Atlantic City 800-foot Sands aquifer is treated to remove large particles. Under high pressure, the water is pumped through a series of thin membranes.

SALT WATER
UNDER
PRESSURE

2. Pressure forces water molecules through the plastic or polymer membranes, but the salt stays behind.

3. The membranes are wound around a hollow core. Clean water collects in this core.

FRESH
WATER

4. The resulting fresh water is treated with chemicals and mixed with water from other wells. The salty waste water is discharged into Cape Island Creek.

