

2026 Water Refilling Station Startup & Costing Guide

Capital breakdown for 3 tiers | Equipment specs and replacement costs | DOH permits & fees | Monthly opex | Franchise vs. indie comparison | Revenue scenarios

Free downloadable companion to the article at pinoynegosyo.net/water-refilling-station-business-200.html

Basic indie tier	₱200,000 – ₱350,000
Standard indie tier	₱400,000 – ₱700,000
Franchise tier	₱600,000 – ₱1,000,000
Monthly opex (mid-tier)	₱68,000 – ₱73,000
5-gallon refill price 2026	₱20–₱30 pickup, ₱25–₱35 delivery
Payback period	18–36 months
Updated	June 2026

Sources: Aquabest & Crystal Clear franchise offerings (2025-2026); iFranchise.ph, Filipiknow, Business News Philippines; Alibaba equipment pricing Q2 2026; DOH-CHD permit fee schedules; PH water station Facebook price boards Q2 2026; and interviews with active operators. All figures are baseline planning estimates — adjust to your city and location.

Capital Breakdown — 3 Startup Tiers

Basic (Indie, ~1,500 L/day)

Total: ₱200,000 - ₱350,000

Line item	Low ₱	Typical ₱	Notes
Purification system (RO 500-1000 LPH, tanks, UV, ozone)	₱90,000	₱150,000	Local vendor package or Alibaba import (\$1,000-2,000)
Space fit-out (tiles, plumbing, electrical, signage)	₱30,000	₱60,000	For 20-25 sqm rented space
Empty containers (60 units, mixed round + slim)	₱8,000	₱10,000	₱126-155 per empty container
Cap seals, heat gun, sanitizer, cleaning supplies	₱4,000	₱8,000	First 3 months of consumables
Motorcycle w/ sidecar for delivery (2nd hand)	₱25,000	₱55,000	Optional but doubles serviceable area
Permits, water lab test, sanitary engineer, signage	₱15,000	₱25,000	DOH lab test alone: ₱3,000-5,000
Rent deposit (2 months) + advance	₱15,000	₱30,000	Depends on location
Working capital / operating buffer (1 month)	₱13,000	₱12,000	Payroll, utilities, restocks

Standard (Indie, 3,000-6,000 L/day)

Total: ₱400,000 - ₱700,000

Line item	Low ₱	Typical ₱	Notes
Purification system (RO 1,500-3,000 LPH, full ozone+UV)	₱180,000	₱280,000	6000 GPD package ~₱295,000
Space fit-out (better tiles, epoxy floor, ceiling)	₱50,000	₱90,000	For 25-40 sqm with room for jars
Empty containers (120 units + slim jars)	₱18,000	₱25,000	Round + slim mix
Delivery vehicle (motorcycle+sidecar or used e-trike)	₱45,000	₱90,000	Higher volume → dedicated route
Water source (deep well drilling if no city supply)	₱40,000	₱100,000	Skip if using Maynilad/Manila Water
Cap seals, sanitizer, cleaning, and lab tests	₱8,000	₱15,000	First quarter consumables
Permits (DTI, mayor, sanitary, DOH-CHD, BIR)	₱20,000	₱35,000	Includes engineer's fee
Signage + launch marketing (tarps, flyers, FB ads)	₱15,000	₱25,000	3-month push
Rent deposit + 3-month operating buffer	₱24,000	₱40,000	Payroll for 3 staff

Premium / Franchise (Aquabest, Crystal Clear tier)

Total: ₱545,000 - ₱973,000

Line item	Low ₱	Typical ₱	Notes
Franchise fee (Aquabest ₱100k, Crystal Clear ₱100k)	₱50,000	₱100,000	One-time; some brands 5-yr renewable
Franchisor-supplied purification equipment	₱300,000	₱500,000	Includes signage, tanks, dispensers
Space fit-out to franchise brand standards	₱70,000	₱140,000	Layout usually pre-approved
Container starter pack (100-150 units, branded)	₱15,000	₱25,000	Branded 5-gal jars
Delivery vehicle (branded)	₱60,000	₱120,000	Some franchisors specify vehicle type
Permits, deposits, launch inventory, buffer	₱45,000	₱80,000	Same requirements as indie
Monthly royalty/marketing fee (recurring)	₱5,000	₱8,000	Not capital, but factor into ROI

Franchise Brand Comparison (2025-2026)

Data compiled from franchise brand pages, iFranchise.ph, and business news reports. Request current franchise disclosure before committing.

Brand	Franchise Fee	Total Package	Monthly Royalty	Inclusions
Aquabest	₱100,000	₱600,000 – 800,000	₱5,000/mo	Full equipment, brand signage, container starter pack, training, layout/design
Crystal Clear	₱100,000	₱800,000 – 1,000,000	₱5,000/mo	Equipment, signage, containers, dispenser starter, training
Aquaquest	₱50,000	₱400,000+	₱3,500/mo	Basic equipment package, signage, layout
Aquasoft	₱50,000	₱400,000+	₱3,500/mo	Standard package + hot/cold dispensers included; 5-gal containers
Safe Water Stations	₱80,000	₱500,000 – 700,000	₱4,000/mo	Alkaline / mineral / RO variants; modular
Livingwater Station	₱50,000	₱300,000+	₱3,000/mo	Basic RO+UV package

Equipment Specs & 2026 Replacement Costs

Component	Function	Cost	Replacement
Multi-media sediment filter	Removes sand, rust, and coarse particulates from raw water	₱8,000	Media replace every 12-18 months (₱2,500)
Ion exchanger (water softener)	Replaces hard Ca/Mg minerals with sodium to reduce hardness	₱12,000	Resin recharge every 6-9 months (₱1,500)
Activated carbon filter	Removes chlorine, organics, herbicides, pesticides, bad taste and odor	₱7,000	Media replace every 6-12 months (₱2,000)
Reverse osmosis (RO) membrane	Core purification: removes bacteria, viruses, dissolved solids to <10 ppm TDS	₱25,000	Replace every 2-3 years (₱15,000-25,000)
Post-carbon polishing filter	Final taste polish after RO	₱4,500	Cartridge every 6-9 months (₱800)
Ultraviolet (UV) sterilizer lamp	Kills any remaining microorganisms via UV-C	₱8,000	Lamp annually (₱2,500-3,500)
Ozone generator	Ozonates storage tank; inhibits bacterial regrowth	₱15,000	Ozone tube every 2-3 years (₱4,000)
Stainless steel storage tanks (2× 500L)	Holds source water and finished product	₱22,000	Sanitize monthly; replace 8-10 yrs
5-gallon washing/sanitizing station	Foot-pump or automated jar rinse before refill	₱6,000	Pump seals every 12 months
Digital TDS meter + pH meter	Daily water quality check	₱1,500	Calibrate every 3 months
Cap sealer / heat gun	Applies tamper-evident seal on filled jars	₱2,000	Heating element every 2 years

Total baseline equipment: **₱111,000**. Franchise/turnkey packages bundle these for ₱150,000-₱500,000.

DOH Permits, LGU Requirements & Fees (2026)

Permit / Registration	Issuing Body	Fee ₱	Validity	Notes
DTI Business Name Registration	Department of Trade and Industry	₱500	5 years	Barangay-scope ₱200; city ₱500; regional ₱1,000; national ₱2,000
Barangay Business Clearance	Barangay hall (business location)	₱800	1 year	₱300-1,500 depending on barangay
Mayor's Permit / Business Permit	City/Municipal Business Permits & Licensing Office	₱5,000	1 year	Includes fire safety, zoning; ₱3,000-15,000 by city
Sanitary Permit	City Health Office	₱1,500	1 year	Required annual sanitary inspection
BIR Certificate of Registration + OR authority	Bureau of Internal Revenue	₱1,000	Continuing	Form 0605 annual registration fee ₱500 + Form 0506 OR authority
DOH-CHD Operational Permit	Center for Health Development (regional DOH)	₱2,600	1 year	DOH CHD Bicol lists ₱2,600 as of 2025; other regions ₱1,500-3,500
Water Potability Lab Analysis (physical, chemical, bacteriological)	DOH-accredited lab	₱4,500	Every 6 months (physical/chem); monthly (bact)	₱3,000-6,000 for full baseline; ₱800-1,500 for monthly bact test
Sanitary Engineer's certification / plans signing	PRC-licensed sanitary engineer	₱8,000	One-time	₱5,000-15,000 depending on complexity
Occupancy permit / building compliance	City Engineer's Office	₱3,500	One-time	Only if new construction or major renovation
Fire Safety Inspection Certificate (FSIC)	Bureau of Fire Protection	₱1,500	1 year	Bundled with mayor's permit in most cities

Estimated first-year total: ₱28,900 (add ₱10,000-₱25,000 for city-specific fees).

Monthly Operating Costs (Mid-tier Station)

Cost item	Monthly P	Notes
Rent (25-30 sqm commercial space)	₱12,000	₱8,000-25,000 depending on city
Electricity (RO pump, UV, ozone, lights)	₱6,500	3,000-5,000 kWh; RO systems draw 0.8-1.2 kWh per 100L
Water source (Maynilad/Manila Water bulk)	₱4,500	Or deep well maintenance if drilled
Salaries — 2 staff + owner draw	₱30,000	1 attendant ₱12k + 1 delivery rider ₱13k + owner ₱5k allowance
SSS/PhilHealth/Pag-IBIG employer share	₱3,000	~10% of staff pay
LPG (delivery motorcycle fuel)	₱3,200	50 km/day × 22 days × ₱6/km
Cap seals + sanitizer consumables	₱1,800	~₱1 per refill for cap + seal
Monthly water lab test (bacteriological)	₱1,200	Required monthly by DOH
Filter/media replacement amortized	₱2,500	RO membrane + carbon + UV lamp annualized ÷ 12
Marketing (flyers, FB boost, referral bonus)	₱1,500	Optional but recommended
Franchise royalty (if applicable)	₱5,000	Aquabest/Crystal Clear ~₱5,000/month
Repairs, misc. (broken containers, tools)	₱1,800	Buffer for unpredictable
Total (indie, no royalty)	₱68,000	
Total (with franchise royalty)	₱73,000	

Three-Stage Revenue Scenarios

Realistic P&L trajectory of a new station selling 5-gallon refills plus small containers, given the mid-tier opex above.

Scenario	Refills/day	Avg price	Daily gross	Monthly gross	Net (indie)	Net (franchise)
Slow-start (Month 1-3)	40	₱22	₱1,180	₱35,400	₱-32,600	₱-37,600
Steady (Month 4-12)	80	₱25	₱2,800	₱84,000	₱16,000	₱11,000
Mature (Year 2+)	150	₱27	₱5,550	₱166,500	₱98,500	₱93,500

Payback on ~₱500,000 total investment typically falls at **18-30 months** for independent stations and **24-36 months** for franchisees. Undercapitalized stations that skip the 3-month operating buffer often close before reaching steady state.

2026 Retail Pricing (Q2 2026)

Compiled from working PH stations' Facebook and Viber price boards. Adjust $\pm 10\%$ for local competition and delivery distance.

Product	Pickup ₱	Delivery ₱	Notes
5-gallon round (purified)	₱20-₱25	₱25-₱30	Baseline product
5-gallon slim (purified)	₱20-₱25	₱25-₱30	Same price, different bottle
5-gallon round (mineral)	₱25-₱30	₱30-₱35	+₱5 premium
5-gallon (alkaline)	₱30-₱40	₱35-₱45	+₱10-15 premium; growing segment
1.5-gallon PET	₱15-₱20	₱20-₱25	Convenience size
1-gallon PET	₱10-₱15	₱15-₱18	Kids/office
500ml PET bottle	₱7-₱10	—	Impulse buy, walk-in
350ml PET bottle	₱4-₱5	—	Impulse buy
New empty jar (round, w/ initial fill)	₱150-₱170	₱165-₱180	Customer keeps
New empty jar (slim, w/ initial fill)	₱155-₱175	₱170-₱185	Customer keeps