

## Tap water under the microscope

Every year, the SIG laboratory carries out some 100,000 analyses to constantly check the quality of our drinking water. In order to meet the legal requirements for basic food products, the analyses are verified by the cantonal chemistry service.

**In 2009, the 51 million cubic metres of water consumed across the entire canton of Geneva complied with the regulatory standards for the physical chemistry criteria as shown below.**

### Mixed water network (lake and groundwater)

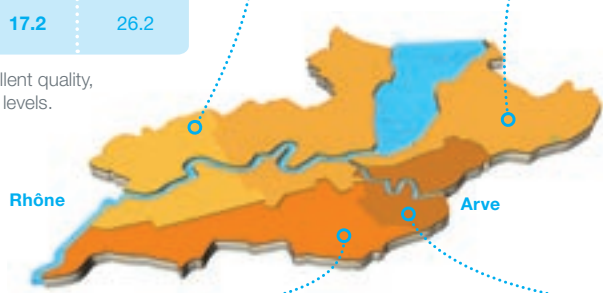
	Minimum	Average	Maximum
<b>Nitrates</b> (mg/L) Tolerance: 40 mg/L	1.9	5.4	13.2
<b>Water hardness<sup>1</sup></b> (French degrees)	13.3	17.2	26.2

The water in this network is of excellent quality, slightly mineralised, with low nitrate levels.

### Lake water network

	Minimum	Average	Maximum
<b>Nitrates</b> (mg/L) Tolerance: 40 mg/L	1.9	2.7	3.3
<b>Water hardness<sup>1</sup></b> (French degrees)	13.3	14.1	14.7

The water in this network is of excellent quality, slightly mineralised, with very low nitrate levels.



### Geneva groundwater network

	Minimum	Average	Maximum
<b>Nitrates</b> (mg/L) Tolerance: 40 mg/L	5.2	8.5	32.4
<b>Water hardness<sup>1</sup></b> (French degrees)	24.6	26.5	37.8

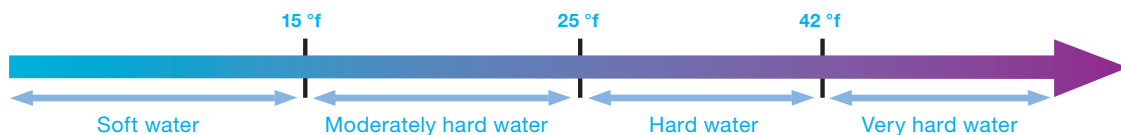
The water in this network is of excellent quality. The level of minerals can vary depending on the pumping station supplying the network.

### Arve groundwater network

	Minimum	Average	Maximum
<b>Nitrates</b> (mg/L) Tolerance: 40 mg/L	5.3	5.8	7.2
<b>Water hardness<sup>1</sup></b> (French degrees)	22.5	23.6	25.2

The water in this network is of excellent quality, moderately mineralised, with fairly low nitrate levels.

### <sup>1</sup>Drinking water hardness (French degrees)



Microbiological analysis makes it possible to ensure that piped drinking water does not contain any traces of bacteria likely to cause health problems and that it is treated with the care and attention required for basic food products.

### Microbiological data for the four drinking water networks:

- Number of samples: **7,087**
- Number of minor anomalies with immediate return to normal: **2**
- Analysis results requiring a plant shut-down: **0**

To find out which network serves your home, visit your private area of [www.mieuxvivresig.ch](http://www.mieuxvivresig.ch)

The requirement to provide information is defined in the EU directive (98/63/EC) regarding the quality of water intended for human consumption. This regulation has been included in the Swiss federal law on food products and objects in everyday use (ODAOUs).

# Eau de Genève, pure balance...



In the last two years, the proportion of you who consume Eau de Genève every day has risen from **60%** to **75%\***. It is no coincidence that an increasing number of you are choosing to drink our water **for its quality, its mineral levels and its taste.**

\* SIG customer satisfaction survey carried out by MSR in June 2009

## Top quality water, with a perfect mineral balance

Eau de Genève is well balanced in terms of its mineral composition and trace elements. 80% of it comes from the lake and 20% from the natural groundwater.

\*Data based on the average annual content of the water resources of the canton of Geneva

Minerals and trace elements	Average (mg/L)*
Calcium	50.9
Magnesium	8
Potassium	1.6
Sodium	8.4
Bicarbonates	132.7
Sulfates	49.1
Chlorides	10.9
Fluorides	0.1

### LIMESTONE CONTAINS CALCIUM AND MAGNESIUM!

Eau de Genève helps to provide the daily intake of calcium and magnesium your body needs to develop properly (growth, formation and solidification of bones and teeth, muscle function, etc).

If you happen to find limescale:

- in your water heater: set the temperature to 60°C to restrict its development;
- in your kettle: use some white vinegar to remove the traces.

### CHLORINE HELPS TO MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY

The very low level of chlorine in the network does not represent any health risk whatsoever. It is indispensable for maintaining the microbiological purity of Eau de Genève when it is piped to the tap.

If you occasionally taste or smell chlorine:

- run the water for a while before using;
- pour it into your water jug and allow to settle for 15 minutes before serving;
- add a slice of lemon, mint leaves or the like.

## The new carafes see life in blue

Following the success of the carafes designed by ZEP, it is now the turn of Geneva cartoonist **TIRABOSCO** to get involved in the Kenya drinking water project with a new Eau de Genève carafe.

**On sale from April 19<sup>th</sup> at the SIG offices at Pont de la Machine and Le Lignon.**

To find out more, visit [www.eaudegeneve.ch](http://www.eaudegeneve.ch) and click on La carafe



# ... simple ecology

## Tap water, a favourable eco-balance

Tap water has up to **one thousand times** less impact on the environment than bottled water!\*

\* Study carried out by ESU-services on behalf of the Swiss Gas and Water Industry Association (SSIGE), published in 2006

Eau de Genève is:

**Zero**

road transport  
packaging  
transport packing  
point of sale

### SIG IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As a responsible distributor, SIG is committed to protecting our water resources. To mention one example, every year it returns 7,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water into the Arve in order to restock the Geneva water table. The water is then filtered naturally by the soil. This approach facilitates a long-term supply of this resource while respecting the natural cycle.

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth  
> **water saving: 50%**



- Use a dual-flush toilet  
> **water saving: up to 6 litres per flush**



- Take a shower rather than a bath  
> **water saving: 150 litres per shower**



- Choose electrical appliances in energy class A+ or A++  
> **water and power saving**



- Use flow restrictors on showers and taps  
> **water saving: up to 10 litres per minute**



- Don't use the dishwasher or washing machine until they are full  
> **water saving: up to 50%**



## A carafe for you...

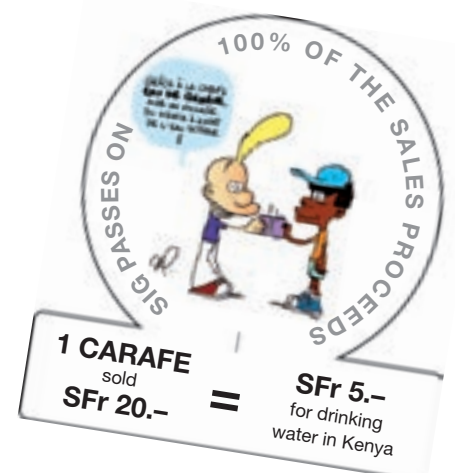
Unique and practical, created by a Geneva design studio.

... **water for everyone.**

100% of the sales proceeds (SFr 5.- per carafe) go to the Geneva-based not-for-profit organisation **H2O-Energies** for a project to provide safe drinking water in Kenya.

Almost 10,000 carafes were sold in 2009, yielding some

**SFr 50,000.- for the Kenya project.**

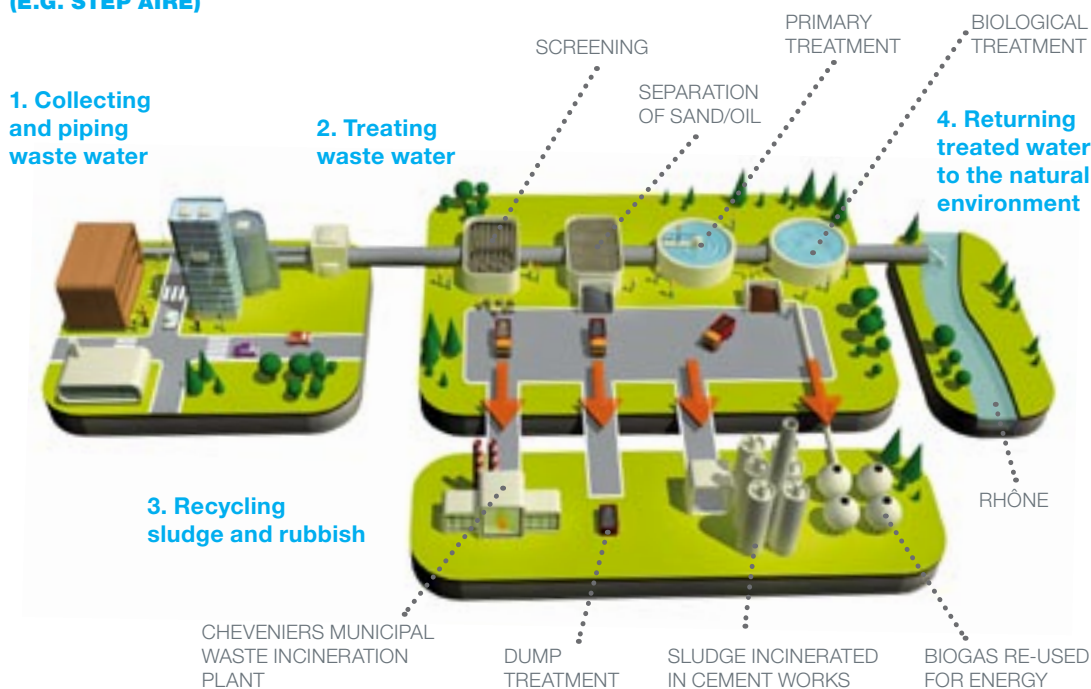


# Treating waste water, a major issue for the environment

## Water is precious, and we need to take care of it

Once used, water returned to the network passes through numerous stages before returning to the natural cycle, without any risk for the environment. In addition, SIG invests constantly in modernising its water treatment facilities and building new purification plants (e.g. STEP Bois-de-Bay).

### WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT (E.G. STEP AIRE)



- > Almost **80 million** cubic metres of waste water treated in 2009
- > **10** waste water plants, **29** pumping stations
- > **128** SIG employees working 24/7 to treat waste water
- > More than **2,750** samples of waste water and **27,700** criteria checked each year

### SIG IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Around 9,000 tonnes of sludge are produced each year by the treatment of the canton's waste water. Once dried, this sludge is transported to a cement plant for re-use in the production of cement.



### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- Don't throw your rubbish down the toilet. Use the waste bin for frying oil (less than 2 litres), cotton buds, dressings, sanitary towels, tampons, condoms, nappies, animal bedding and sand, cigarette ends, food waste, etc.
- Don't throw litter in the gutter - they often lead directly to drains that carry rainwater straight into water courses or lakes.
- Use cleaning products that are environmentally friendly.
- Collect oils (after an oil change or frying), medicines, paints, solvents, plant foods, etc and take them to recycling centres. To find out more, visit [www.recyclage.ch](http://www.recyclage.ch)

For more environmental tips, visit [www.mieuxvivresig.ch](http://www.mieuxvivresig.ch) and click on Eaux usées



Une énergie propre à chacun