



# What about my drinking water supply in 2022?

Each day, SIG provides you with high-quality drinking water that meets the standards of the Swiss Federal Food Act<sup>1</sup>.

The water that comes out of your taps is treated with all the care required for the preparation of food products. It is constantly monitored by the SIG laboratory and meets all legal requirements of safe, high quality drinking water in terms of its microbiological and chemical properties. The results of these tests are regularly forwarded to the cantonal food surveillance authority (Cantonal Chemist).

Lake water	min.	avg.	max.	
<b>Nitrates</b> <small>Tolerance value 40 mg/L</small>	2.0	2.5	2.8	mg/L
<b>Water hardness<sup>2</sup></b>	12.6	13.6	14.5	°f
<b>Calcium</b>	40.7	44.5	47.4	mg/L
<b>Magnesium</b>	5.6	6.1	6.4	°mg/L

➔ **Excellent quality:** very low mineral content and very low nitrate content

## Mixed water - Lake and Allondon aquifer

<b>Nitrates</b> <small>Tolerance value 40 mg/L</small>	2.1	3.2	6.6	mg/L
<b>Water hardness<sup>2</sup></b>	12.6	15.2	23.7	°f
<b>Calcium</b>	40.7	50.8	82.8	mg/L
<b>Magnesium</b>	5.7	6.2	7.4	°mg/L

➔ **Excellent quality:** low mineral content and low nitrate content

## Lake water - aquifer sector

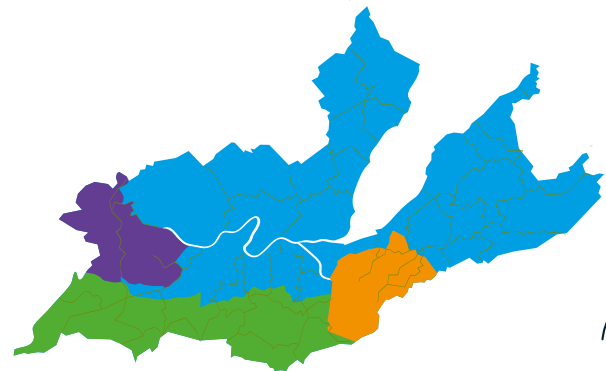
<b>Nitrates</b> <small>Tolerance value 40 mg/L</small>	2.0	2.5	3.0	mg/L
<b>Water hardness<sup>2</sup></b>	12.3	13.6	14.3	°f
<b>Calcium</b>	40.0	44.5	47.2	mg/L
<b>Magnesium</b>	5.6	6.0	6.5	°mg/L

➔ **Excellent quality:** very low mineral content and very low nitrate content

## Water from the Geneva aquifer - Arve sector

<b>Nitrates</b> <small>Tolerance value 40 mg/L</small>	2.4	4.5	11.4	mg/L
<b>Water hardness<sup>2</sup></b>	12.7	19.6	22.5	°f
<b>Calcium</b>	41.3	62.4	70.5	mg/L
<b>Magnesium</b>	5.9	9.7	11.8	°mg/L

➔ **Excellent quality:** moderate mineral content



## Water hardness scale (in °f)<sup>2</sup>

42	Very hard water
32	Hard water
25	Moderately hard water
19.6	Water from the Geneva aquifer
15.2	Mixed water
15	Moderately soft water
13.6	Lake water – aquifer sector
13.6	Lake water
7	Soft water
0	Very soft water



**5,681**  
samples collected



**94,649**  
tests carried out  
by the SIG laboratory



**58** million cubic metres  
of water used in  
the Canton of Geneva



**No plant downtime due to water quality issues**

**1.3%** of samples  
non-compliant with  
quality standards  
(73 out of 5,681  
samples, with  
no severe issues  
detected and swift  
return to normal)

1. The duty to provide information is established by the Federal Department of Home Affairs Ordinance on Drinking Water and Water in Public Baths and Shower Facilities (OPBD/DWBSO).  
2. Water hardness (network average) in French degrees (°f), a measure of the quantity of calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) in the water.

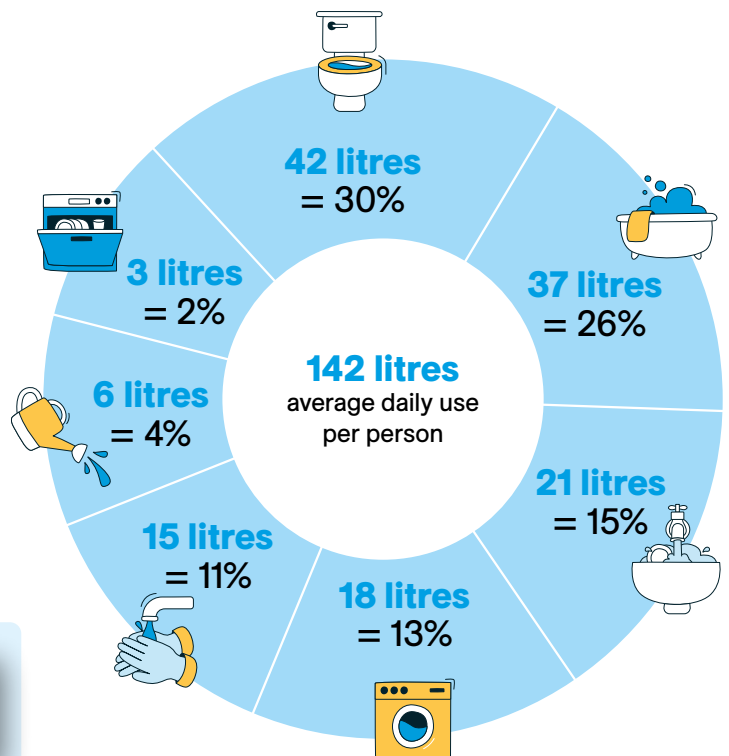
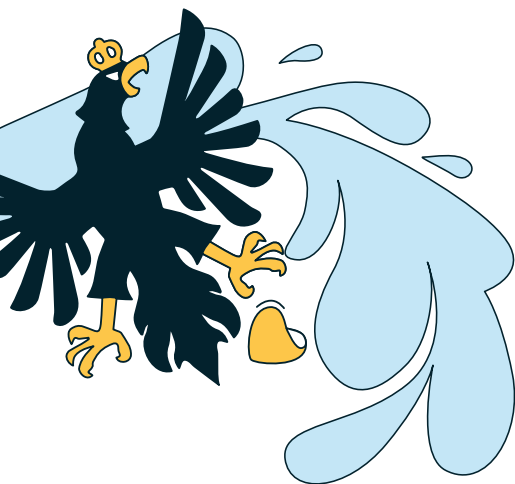
# Water is our heritage, let's conserve it!

We all have a role to play in protecting and improving water quality by adopting a few simple habits. Available 24/7, water is a precious commodity. Each litre of water saved conserves a valuable natural resource while also reducing energy usage.

## ● How can you save and preserve water on a daily basis?

- **Take a shower** instead of a bath = **4x less water used**. Install **flow reducers** on your taps = **up to 50%** less water used (**-1,000 litres/year**).
- **Drink tap water** instead of bottled water = **CHF 500 per person, per year** saved and up to **1,000x** more **eco-friendly** by **eliminating bottles, packaging** and **transport**.
- **Install dual-flush toilets** = **60%** less water. Fix a leaking toilet **to save up to 600 litres/day**.
- **Fix dripping taps** **to save up to 9,000 litres/day**.
- **Select the "eco" function** on your washing machine and run it only when full.
- **Select the "eco" function** on your dishwasher = **8x less water** used than when washing by hand.
- Don't throw **any waste or chemical products** (wet-wipes, cotton swabs, sanitary pads, cat litter, condoms, medication, cigarette butts, etc.) as they disrupt the treatment of waste water.
- **Install drip watering in your garden** = **30%** less water. In summer, water **early in the morning or in the evening**, as in the middle of the day **60%** of the water evaporates before it can be absorbed.
- **Collect rainwater** to water your plants. Don't mow your lawn too short (**leave at least 6 cm**), as this dries out and exhausts the lawn.
- Have your car washed and your oil changed by **professionals with the right equipment to treat polluted waste water**. Dispose of household oil in the trash (max. 1 L). Take toxic liquids to your local recycling centre.

## ● Breakdown of the daily consumption of the average Geneva resident<sup>1</sup>:



Learn more about what you can do every day to save water on:  
[ge.ch/teaser/oh-mon-eau](https://ge.ch/teaser/oh-mon-eau)



# Eau de Genève, working and innovating!

To guarantee access to quality water year-round, SIG teams constantly monitor the water network and carry out essential maintenance of pipes and equipment.

## ● First public still and sparkling water fountain in Switzerland



Inaugurated on 21 June 2022, the still and sparkling Eau de Genève public fountain, located on the Esplanade of Pont de la Machine was an instant hit: it offers high quality local, eco-friendly water, 24 hours a day, entirely for free!

## ● Moving a pipe

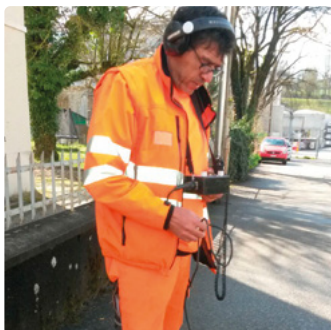


As part of the extension of tram line 15, a 500 mm diameter mains pipe, installed in 1982, needed to be moved. SIG's drinking water teams took this opportunity to replace 250 metres of this pipe.

## ➡ The usage figures over the three summer months speak for themselves:

- **40,000 litres of water distributed**, of which over 77% sparkling water.
- **40,000 PET bottles avoided** = 3,300 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> saved.
- The water fountain will be **back in June 2023** for the pleasure of all.

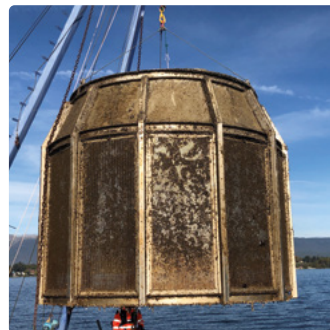
## ● Searching for leaks



To detect hidden leaks across the network, technicians use microphones of varying sensitivity that amplify the sounds made by leaks so they can be located. Any leaks found are then repaired as quickly as possible.

By preventing the unnecessary loss of treated and pumped water, in 2022, SIG was able to save around 3 million cubic metres of water, as well as energy amounting to 100,000 km travelled by electric car.

## ● Cleaning the strainers



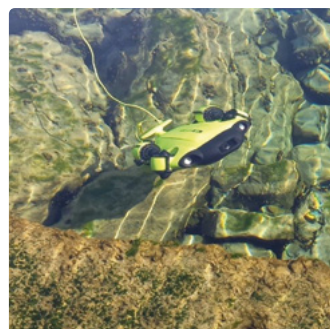
⬆ Before



⬆ After

## 90% of Geneva's tap water comes from the lake.

The two strainers that are used to pump the water before it is treated require regular maintenance. In 2022, the two strainers were cleaned: a significant amount of quagga mussels (an invasive freshwater mussel native to Eastern Europe) was removed and the equipment was inspected using an underwater drone.



**CHF 20**



**CHF 2**  
to preserve  
Lake Geneva

# Essential accessories to advertise your commitment to water conservation!

The **Eau de Genève water bottle** is not only the only stainless steel bottle manufactured less than 800 km from Geneva, but also supports the **Association for the Safeguard of Lake Geneva (ASL)** with a CHF 2 donation for each bottle purchased. **ASL initiatives to preserve Lake Geneva include:**

➔ **Net 'Léman**

This campaign to clean up the shores and the lakebed of Lake Geneva aims to preserve the beauty and health of our lake.

Waste collection in 2022:

- **1,195 kg** of plastic
- **1,256** PET bottles
- **1,404** glass bottles
- **4,099** aluminium cans
- **54,621** cigarette butts

➔ **Stop Japanese knotweed**

Originally from Asia, this invasive aquatic plant threatens local biodiversity.

In 2022:

- **9,589 kg** were uprooted
- The equivalent of **3,780** football pitches were preserved.

More information on [asl.ch](http://asl.ch)

For each **Eau de Genève carafe** purchased, CHF 5 is donated to **Geneva-based humanitarian organisations** that support access to safe drinking water in developing countries.

➔ **Update on H2O Energies's Kiswaro village project funded by Eau de Genève:**

- Commissioned construction of a 5 km pipeline linking the Lake Victoria station to the village of Kiswaro and the reservoir, including 2 tanks of 24,000 L.
- Installed water distribution kiosks in Tiga and Kiswaro school.

➔ **Actions planned for 2023:**

- Purchase and install a second solar pump to reinforce the power supply for the village of Kiswaro.
- Raise public awareness of the benefits of safe drinking water vs unsafe water.

Follow the project on: [h2o-energies.ch](http://h2o-energies.ch)

f **H2O-Energies Genève**



- Video on the carafe, Zep and the project in Kenya by Grand JD

Get yours now!



- Buy online: [bit.ly/sig-carafes](http://bit.ly/sig-carafes)
- at Quartier libre SIG (Pont de la Machine)

**CHF 20**



**CHF 5**

to support access  
to safe drinking  
water

[sig-eaudegeneve.ch](http://sig-eaudegeneve.ch)



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[facebook.com/eaudegeneve](https://facebook.com/eaudegeneve)



English version available on  
[sig-eaudegeneve.ch](http://sig-eaudegeneve.ch)

**SIG**