

FILTERING WATER TO MAKE IT TASTE BETTER

However, watch out for carafes that filter the water too softly: If the entire limescale content is filtered out, useful salts in the water are broken down.

di Beba Minna



Apart from a few isolated cases, tap water tastes good, is healthy and is controlled. You should therefore not afraid to drink it. This has been confirmed for many years by laboratory analyses carried out by Altroconsumo on drinking water from public fountains to the tap at home. The fact is that it does not always taste good and therefore unnecessary concerns can arise. Some people don't like it if the water tastes too strongly of chlorine or lime, so they switch to mineral water. In this case, and to avoid buying bottled water and wasting money and polluting the environment with even more plastic, there are water filter carafes that filter out unwanted elements. The following water filters that we have tested show good results.

Excessive softening

In laboratory tests, almost all test agents have to be effective. However, some problems still need to be overcome, such as the unnecessary aversion to lime.

The claim that limescale is an enemy of our body is an old wives' tale. The hardness of water, i.e. the content of calcium and magnesium salts, is falsely associated with negative effects on health. It is generally claimed that calcium and magnesium salts promote the formation of kidney stones.

Caraffe filtranti con cartuccia filtro

	PRICE		PROPERTIES		RESULT						Total quality %	
	Average price in euros (October 2022)	Average costs in the first year	Capacity (liters)	Hardness (from approx. 30 °f a...)	Nitrato	Chlorine	Arsenic	Chromate	Lead	Additives and trihalometan	Microbiology	
■ MAUNAWAI Kini MW-K-Kis + PI con pad anticalcare	95	209	2	15	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	77
LAICA Carmen Tosca J9059 + Bi-flux	25	95	2,3	27	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	66
IMETEC Acqua the bottle FB110 + FC 100	37	108	1	28	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	65
LAICA Caraffa MikroPLASTIK-STOP + Bi-flux + MikroPLASTIK-STOP	49	111	3	13	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	62
AQUA OPTIMA Oria EJ0659 + Evolve (30 giorni) EVS602	20	99	2,8	13	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	62
LAICA Stream Line + Bi-flux	15	85	2,3	16	★★★	★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	62
BODYFORM B406H + Bi-flux	18	80	2,25	28	★★★	★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	61
BRITA Fill&enjoy Aluna 1023719 + Maxtra+ 1022212	21	96	1,5	12	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	61
AQUA OPTIMA Liscia + Evolve+ 30 Giorni	13	59	2,5	11	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	61
AMAZON BASICS AMWTFLT2_3 + AMWTFLT3	20	80	2,3	10	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	60
■ AQUAPHOR Amethyst + Maxfor B100 – 25	18	51	2,8	13	★★★	★★★	★★★	★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	60
BWT Easy-Fit Vida + Maxfor B100 – 25	21	83	2,6	17	★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	59
WESSPER Aquapro WES025 + Aquapro Alkaline WES028-4	30	67	3,5	21	★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	57
PHILIPS filtro Philips Micro X-Clean + AWP2936BLT/10	23	91	2,6	11	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	54
LAICA Flow'n go + Fast Disk	25	56	1	30	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	52
AIGOSTAR Pure + Filter Cartridge	38	93	3,5	12	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	51
LAICA Prime Line (Elegance) Art. J51-CA + Bi-Flux	24	86	3	19	★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★	★	★★★★	51
LAICA GlassSmart + Fast Disk Art. FD03A	33	68	1,1	24	★	★	★★	★★★	★	★★	★★★★	48
BRITA Fill&serve Mind + MicroDisc	25	74	1,3	30	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	48
COOP VIVIVERDE Caraffa filtrante 446292500 + cartuccia filtro	15	64	2,3	8	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	46
BRITA Marella White 1039160 + Maxtra+	23	109	2,4	6	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	45
PEARLCO Standard Classic + Classic System	15	90	2,4	9	★★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	42
PEARLCO Glass waterfilter black + filtri per Aqua	43	87	2	9	★★★	★★	★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	41
INVIGORATED WATER pH REPLENISH + pH ON-THE-GO Alkaline water Pouch	46	74	1,8	29	★	★	★★	★★	★	★	★★★★	34
ZEROWATER 7K + ZR-017	29	190	1,7	0	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	31
AQUAPHOR Provance A5 Tritan + Water filters 5	25	60	4,2	1	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	31

RISULTATI COMPLETI SU www.altroconsumo.it/caraffe

Optimal quality Good quality Medium quality Low quality

In fact, water that is too hard mainly leads to traces of limescale on pots and sinks or to encrustations in the kettle, but calcium and magnesium salts do not have a negative on our health. On the contrary, it is by no means necessary to soften drinking water too much so that it resembles mineral water. The Drinking Water Act suggests that the water hardness should not be below 15 °f, as excessive softening can have a negative effect on our health.

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The hardness of the water removes useful mineral salts from the body. In fact, we do not recommend any carafes that produce a hardness of less than 10 °f. The most extreme case is the Zerowater cartridge, which, together with Aquaphor Provance, performs the worse in the test. Both remove all the limescale from the water, while the Brita Fill&serve Mind and Laica Flow'ngo models hardly the water hardness. **Cartridges without impurities** The paradox is that in the past, some filter cartridges deteriorated the tap water filled into the carafe by releasing undesirable substances that not originally present. The carafe filter, which is supposed to retain the organic compounds that may be present in the water, runs the risk of itself becoming a breeding ground for

The test method

PROCUREMENT AND ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTS The products were purchased and tested between 2019 and 2022, as this is a continuous test. The test carafes are on the market from October 2022.

SELECTION OF PRODUCTS For the The models to be tested were selected on the basis of market research in consumer goods and supermarkets, in household appliance and drugstore chains and -stores and on the Internet.

WATER ANALYSES The test is carried out with tap water to which "pollutants" have been added in a concentration appropriate for testing the efficiency of the cartridges.

THE EVIDENCE The results of the test are evaluated differently in the overall assessment. In the tests, the main focus was placed on the removal of heavy metals, the reduction of solvents and the reduction of trihalomethanes and microorganisms (each with a value of 20 % in the overall assessment). This is followed by the test for the reduction of nitrates and chloride (each by 15 %).

Further details on the selection of products, test material and the test method in general can be found at: www.altroconsumo.it/metodo-testcaraffe

bacteria. The good news is that the models in this latest test good results, with the exception of three carafes (Aigostar Pure, Brita Fill&serve Mind and Zerowater), which showed an increased bacterial load during the laboratory test weeks, although never a health hazard. In comparison, in previous tests over 30 days, we found that the bacteria on the cartridges had increased. In most cases, silver is the secret ingredient that keeps the proliferation of microorganisms in check.

OUR CHOICE: FILTER CARAFES



77 QUALITÀ OTTIMA

MAUNAWAI® Kini water filter

PRO The filter system with the best test performance for all impurities. The water is not excessively softened.

DISADVANTAGES It is not equipped with systems with a bacteriostatic effect, which means that careless cleaning could lead to the proliferation of bacteria.

OUR OPINION Optimal filter system that does not degrade the positive properties of the water too much. A quality that comes at a price: it is much more expensive than competing products.



60 QUALITÀ BUONA

Aquaphor Amethyst+ Maxfor B100-25

PRO The carafe is able to remove various harmful substances. Very efficient at removing aluminum.

DISADVANTAGES It is one of the models that does not remove chrome particularly efficiently. Very poor operating instructions and inadequate mandatory information on treatment.

OUR OPINION A safe product, suitable for anyone who wants to try out a filter carafe. Its big advantage: it is very reasonably priced.

Nitrates and solvents Solvents and trihalomethanes are two groups of harmful substances that also affect the taste. Maunawai removes 100% of both and performs well on groups of substances such Aquaoptima, Aquaphor Provance, Zero water, Aigosta and Laika. Stop microplastics. Other pollutants that a carafe can break down are nitrates, which sometimes present in drinking water due to pollution of agricultural origin or sewage in groundwater. The legal limit is 50 mg/l,

Below this value, the water is safe and suitable for consumption by the whole family. The water that we had contaminated specifically for testing the carafes contained 22 mg/l: more than the tap water (13 mg/l), well below the legal limit. All carafes slightly reduce nitrates, but only two models were found to have removed them: Zerowater almost completely eliminates them and Maunawai reduces them by 79%. It is no easy task to make water more drinkable while retaining its positive properties: Only the best in the test can do it.