

Kitchener water:

Quality,
straight from
the tap



Make a better choice
for the environment,
our community, and you.



Why choose tap water?

At Kitchener Utilities, we are committed to supplying you with safe drinking water. We work together with the City of Kitchener and the Region of Waterloo to keep water matters top of mind.

You can feel confident in its quality.

Water from your tap, delivered by Kitchener Utilities, is safe. **We test the water in the distribution system each week, and the Region of Waterloo continuously tests all treated water before it enters the distribution system.** In fact, the Region does more than 10,000 water quality tests each year to ensure that we meet or exceed government standards for the consistent delivery of safe, quality drinking water.

Did you know? Bottled water is considered a food product and is not subject to the same regulations as tap water.

Go to www.region.waterloo.on.ca/water to view test results for our water quality in the City of Kitchener.

You'll save money.

You know how much bottled water costs to buy – especially in single-serve bottles. Now, find a penny. That's how much it will cost you to fill 10 single-serve (500 mL) bottles with tap water.

You'll help the environment.

Bottled water impacts the environment every step of the way. The plastic for the bottles uses natural resources (including crude oil and water) in its production. In fact, it takes seven times more water to make a plastic bottle than the bottle actually holds!

Then the water has to get to you – sometimes from an ocean away.

The transportation of bottled water in cargo ships and trucks also contributes to pollution and global warming.

And once the water is gone? Most of those plastic bottles are only used once, and we've all seen them littering parks, playgrounds, and roadsides. A better scenario is that they get recycled, but that has significant associated costs and energy as well.

Did you know? More than 150,000 single-serve bottles are recycled **each day** at the Region's Materials Recycling Centre on Erb Street.

Choose to fill a reusable plastic, glass, or aluminum bottle or cup with tap water – it's the enviro-friendly choice.



A matter of taste?

Chlorine added to our drinking water ensures that it is safe for drinking, cooking, and other everyday uses. But it can also add a taste or smell.

Fortunately, it is easy to eliminate. Here's how:

- Store water in an open glass container in your fridge.
- Install a carbon filter on your tap.
- Use a water pitcher with a filter, and change the filter regularly.
- Remember to wash your reusable pitcher or water bottle regularly.

City Council resolution about alternatives to bottled water.æ

The City of Kitchener is considering, *where practical*, to eliminate the sale of bottled water in its facilities. On June 23, 2008, Council approved a recommendation by Kitchener Utilities that the City eliminate the serving of bottled water at meetings at City Hall.

This summer, Kitchener Utilities will be working with staff at the City's other facilities to assess where else it may be possible to eliminate bottled water. We will present this list to Council in the fall. Obviously, there are some facilities where bottled water must be available – for example, at golf courses as a precaution against heat-related stress and exhaustion.

Want to know more? Have questions about your tap water? Go to www.kitchenerutilities.ca or call **519-741-2408**.

