

ECOFILTRO

User Manual

Models: **5 Litre & 20 Litre**

Distributed by **GrünePerlen GmbH**
www.grueneperlen.com

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1. Safety Instructions

IMPORTANT – Please read completely before first use!

- **Use only cold tap water.** Never pour hot or boiling water into the filter – this will irreversibly damage the ceramic structure.
- **Use only European tap water.** The Ecofiltro is not designed for untreated well water, rainwater, or water of unknown origin.
- **Fragile:** The ceramic filter unit is delicate. Handle with care and avoid impacts.
- **No cleaning agents:** Never use soap, dish detergent, vinegar, citric acid, or any chemical cleaners on the filter unit.
- **Do not let the filter dry out:** After initial setup, the ceramic must remain permanently moist.
- **Not a water purifier for contaminated water:** The Ecofiltro is designed to improve the quality of already drinkable tap water. It does not replace professional water treatment for contaminated sources.

2. What's in the Box

Ecofiltro 5L

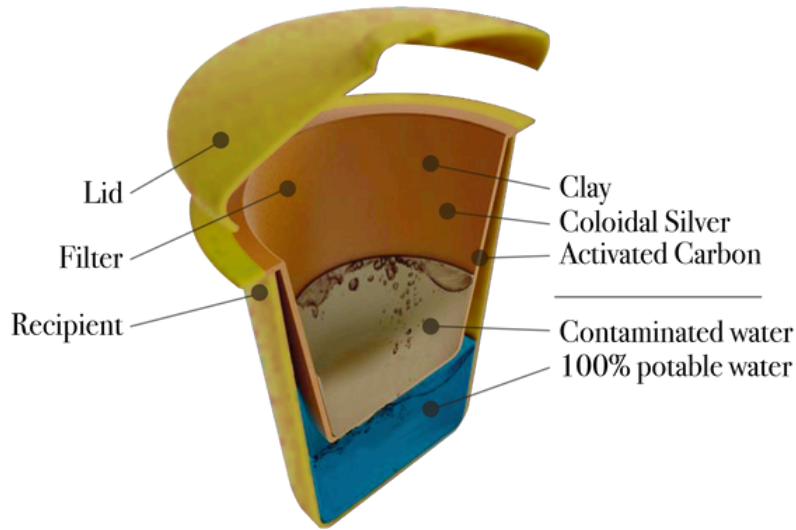
- 1x Upper container (vitrified steel)
- 1x Lower container with lid
- 1x Ceramic filter unit (1.5 L)
- 1x Stainless steel tap
- 1x Sealing ring for tap

Ecofiltro 20L

- 1x Upper container (vitrified steel)
- 1x Lower container with lid
- 1x Ceramic filter unit (5 L)
- 1x Stainless steel tap
- 1x Sealing ring for tap

Available separately: Wooden stand made from sustainable pine wood (available for both 5L and 20L). The stand makes it easier to fill glasses and protects your countertop.

3. Product Overview & Specifications



Ecofiltro structure: Upper container with filter unit, lower storage container with tap

Feature	Ecofiltro 5L	Ecofiltro 20L
Total capacity	5 litres	20 litres
Filter unit volume	1.5 litres	5 litres
Storage volume	3.5 litres	15 litres
Filtration rate (stable)	approx. 0.5 L/hour	approx. 2 L/hour
Recommended for	1–2 people	3+ people / families
Container material	Vitrified steel (no plastic)	
Filter unit material	Fired clay + activated carbon (from sawdust) + colloidal silver (530 ppm)	
Pore size	max. 0.8 micrometres	
Tap	Stainless steel	
Filter lifespan	approx. 2 years (depending on usage and water hardness)	
Power requirement	None – pure gravity principle	
Available colours (5L)	White, Black, Light Blue, Baby Pink, Mint Green, Yellow	
Available colours (20L)	White, Matte Black	

4. How It Works – The Filtration Principle



The ceramic filter unit: Porous clay with activated carbon and colloidal silver

The Ecofiltro combines three natural elements into an effective filtration system:

Clay – Mechanical Microfiltration

During firing, the filter unit develops a labyrinth of microscopic pores (max. 0.8 micrometres – 125 times smaller than a human hair). Bacteria, parasites, and sediments are physically trapped.

Sawdust – Activated Carbon Matrix

Sawdust is mixed into the clay before firing. During the kiln process, it burns away and is converted into activated carbon. The result: a highly porous structure with an adsorbing carbon matrix that removes odours, taste impurities, and turbidity.

Colloidal Silver – Bacteriostatic Protection

After firing, the filter unit is treated with colloidal silver (530 ppm). Silver ions prevent the growth of bacteria *within* the filter itself. The initial silver release is approximately 40 ppb – well below the USEPA recommendation.

Good to know: The Ecofiltro works on the gravity principle alone – no electricity, no water connection, no wear parts (except the filter unit itself).

5. Initial Setup

The first few days with your Ecofiltro require a little patience. Follow these steps:



Step by step: Insert filter unit and assemble container

1

Install the Tap

Place the sealing ring onto the tap and screw it into the designated opening on the lower container. Tighten the nut on the inside by hand.

2

Insert the Filter Unit

Carefully place the ceramic filter unit into the upper container.

Important: Only hold the filter unit by its edges, not the surface. The colloidal silver coating should remain evenly distributed.

3

Stack the Containers

Place the upper container (with filter unit) on top of the lower container. Ensure it sits level and stable.

4

First Fill

Slowly pour cold tap water into the upper container until the filter unit is fully submerged. Water will begin to seep through gradually.

5

Allow Initial Cycles

The water may taste **slightly earthy, musty, or dusty during the first 3–5 cycles**. This is completely normal! These are harmless clay and carbon particles.

Tip: Discard the first 2–3 fills or use the water for watering plants. From the 4th–5th cycle onwards, the water will taste fresh and clean.

Filtration speed at the beginning: The ceramic is completely dry when delivered. The pores need to absorb water first. The 5L model initially filters only 1–2 glasses per hour, the 20L about 1 litre/hour. The speed increases over the first few days and stabilises at approx. 0.5 L/h (5L) or 2 L/h (20L).

6. Daily Use

- **Use only cold tap water.** Hot water damages the ceramic and significantly shortens the filter's lifespan.
- **Plan ahead:** Since the filter processes 0.5–2 litres per hour, fill it in the evening so there is enough filtered water in the morning.
- **Keep the filter moist:** Do not let the filter unit dry out completely after initial setup.
- **Always keep the lid on:** Protects filtered water from dust and insects.
- **Location:** Place the Ecofiltro on a flat, stable surface. Avoid direct sunlight.
- **Safe for infants:** The filtered water can also be used for preparing baby formula.

Tap dripping? Gently tighten the nut on the inside. A glass or coaster under the tap protects your countertop.

Caring for the wooden stand: Occasionally treat it with a natural wood oil (e.g. linseed oil) to keep it looking its best.

7. Cleaning & Maintenance

Maintenance Schedule

Water Hardness	Interval
Soft to normal water (up to 14°dH / 250 ppm)	Every 6 months
Hard water (above 14°dH / 250 ppm)	Every 3 months

Tip: You can find out your water hardness from your local water supplier or with a simple test strip from the pharmacy.

How to Clean the Filter Unit



Cleaning the filter unit: Use only a clean sponge and water

- 1 Wait until no water remains in the upper container.
- 2 Carefully remove the filter unit and place it on a clean cloth. **Handle by the edges only!**
- 3 Use a **new, clean sponge** (dedicate one sponge exclusively for this purpose). Clean the outside first, then the inside.
- 4 Rinse the sponge thoroughly with clean water between surfaces.
- 5 Also clean the container and tap with clear water only.

6

Reassemble everything and fill with fresh water.

NEVER use soap, dish detergent, vinegar, citric acid, or any other cleaning agents! These penetrate the pores and permanently contaminate the filtered water.

8. Replacing the Filter Unit

The filter unit should be replaced after approximately **2 years**. The actual lifespan depends on:

- Daily water volume
- Water hardness
- Water temperature
- Regularity of cleaning

Signs that replacement is due:

- Filtration speed decreases significantly despite cleaning
- Water taste changes noticeably
- The filter unit shows visible cracks or damage

Order replacement filters:

5L replacement filter: shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro-ersatzfilter-5l

20L replacement filter: shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro-ersatzfilter-20l

Maintenance kit (with sponge): shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro-wartungsset

After inserting a new filter unit, follow the same instructions as for initial setup (see Chapter 5): discard the first 2–3 fills.

9. Holidays & Extended Absence

Absence	Recommendation
Up to 1 week	Fill both the filter unit and container completely with water. The ceramic stays moist.
1–4 weeks	Fill both parts completely with water. Upon return: discard remaining water and refill.
Over 4 weeks	The filter may dry out. Upon return: treat as initial setup (discard first 2–3 cycles).

10. Troubleshooting

Problem	Cause	Solution
Water tastes earthy/musty	New filter unit, carbon particles	Normal for the first 3–5 cycles. Discard water.
Very slow filtration	Dry ceramic (new) or limescale buildup	New filter: be patient, speed increases over days. Old filter: clean (Ch. 7).
Tap dripping	Loose nut	Gently tighten the inner nut.
Cloudy water despite filtering	Filter unit damaged or depleted	Inspect filter for cracks. If damaged: replace.
Taste changes after months	Cleaning due or filter at end of life	Perform cleaning. If no improvement: replace filter unit.
Greenish discolouration in container	Algae growth (sun exposure)	Clean container, keep away from direct light.

11. Test Results & Filtration Performance

Filtration performance has been confirmed by multiple independent, accredited laboratories:

Contaminant	Removal	Laboratory / Date
Bacteria (E. coli, coliforms, Salmonella)	99.9%	Various accredited laboratories
Microplastics (polystyrene)	100%	Measurlabs Helsinki, Feb 2025
PFAS (forever chemicals)	> 99%	Measurlabs Helsinki, Dec 2024
Pharmaceuticals (13 of 14 substances)	99.9%	Measurlabs Helsinki, Dec 2024
Pesticides	up to 99%	Technological Laboratory Uruguay, June 2025
Sediments & turbidity	Complete	—
Chlorine, taste, odour	Significant reduction	—

Note on PFAS: The > 99% PFAS reduction was measured under laboratory conditions with a brand-new filter. In long-term use, the adsorption capacity depletes faster than the microbiological filtration performance. For areas with known high PFAS contamination, we recommend specialised activated carbon block filters or reverse osmosis systems.

Intentionally NOT removed:

- **Limescale:** Minerals remain in the water – by design, as they are beneficial for health.
- **Nitrate/Nitrite:** Not removed.

12. Disposal & Sustainability

Component	Disposal
Container, lid, tap	Metal recycling
Old filter unit	General waste – or repurpose creatively (see tip)
Packaging	Paper/cardboard recycling

Creative reuse of old filter units: Use as a plant vase or crumble and add to garden soil as a natural soil conditioner. The fired clay improves soil structure!

The Social Mission

Every Ecofiltro sold in Europe helps subsidise filters for families in Guatemala. Since 2014, over 33,000 Ecofiltros have been delivered to Guatemala and 980,000 children have been reached through a school programme. This is not a retrofitted marketing story – it is the authentic founding purpose of the company.

13. Frequently Asked Questions

How long until the Ecofiltro is ready to use?

Filtration starts immediately after filling, but the first 2–3 fills should be discarded (earthy taste). From the 4th–5th cycle, the water tastes perfectly clean.

Can I use hot water?

No! Use cold tap water only. Hot water damages the ceramic structure and significantly shortens the filter's lifespan.

Is the water safe for babies?

Yes. The filtered water can be used for infants and for preparing baby formula.

Can I filter well water?

The Ecofiltro is designed for European tap water. Only use well water if its quality has been laboratory-tested beforehand.

How do I know when the filter needs replacing?

After approximately 2 years, or when filtration speed drops significantly despite cleaning, or when the taste changes noticeably.

Does the Ecofiltro remove limescale?

No – and that's intentional. Minerals like calcium and magnesium remain in the water, as they are beneficial for health.

What should I do during extended absence?

Fill both container parts completely with water. If absent for more than 4 weeks, treat the filter like an initial setup upon return.

Can I use the Ecofiltro in an office or campervan?

Yes! The Ecofiltro requires neither electricity nor a water connection, making it ideal for offices, holiday homes, campsites, or campervans – anywhere tap water is available.

14. Contact & Support

Details	
Retailer	GrünePerlen GmbH
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Phone	+49 3504 69 35 25
Email	info@grueneperlen.com
Website	www.grueneperlen.com
Shop	shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro
Replacement filters	shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro-ersatzfilter-5l shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro-ersatzfilter-20l
Maintenance kit	shop.grueneperlen.com/ecofiltro-wartungsset

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