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# "First aid" for contaminated drinking water

To protect its youngest citizens from bacteria in the drinking water, one Austrian local authority is relying on a little helper from Germany's Allgäu region

**When small bacteria cause a big furore: if the drinking water is contaminated, then regional and local authorities and the water companies are called on to act quickly. Ultimately, the health of large numbers of citizens is at stake. That was the case, for example, in the Austrian district of St. Georgen, where enterococci were found to be present in the drinking water. To protect its youngest citizens in particular as best as possible from bacteria and possible illnesses, the town – in the Flachgau region, near Salzburg – turned to small, but particularly effective, first responders from the Allgäu: the Home & Travel water filter systems produced by Kirchheim-based Ujeta GmbH. These systems are simply screwed onto the tap, and then remove 99.999 per cent of all germs and bacteria. Eight water filters were installed in the two children's nurseries and six primary schools in St. Georgen. It meant that a total of around 260 children were able to enjoy fresh, clean drinking water directly from the tap**

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**without worries, and the parents were also able to be relaxed about their children's health.**

"We wanted to take no risks at all. It was particularly important for us that nothing happened to the children. Nursery-age children, in particular, are very quick to put their fingers in their mouths. And that naturally includes those times when they have just washed their hands under the tap. Or they may drink the water directly from the tap. As responsible care providers, that was simply too big a risk to take. So it was clear that we needed to react immediately and do something about it," explains Kurt Bamberger, chief executive of St. Georgen's district council.

The situation naturally provoked great concern in the town: a routine six-monthly check on drinking water quality carried out by the water utility company had revealed that the spur pipe in question was contaminated with enterococci. These bacteria are frequently an indicator of faecal contamination in the water, and they can lead to a variety of infections in humans, such as diarrhoea and associated diseases. "We warned residents immediately and advised them to boil their water, as a precaution. We did so even though, at that time, it was not at all clear whether the area's entire water network was affected by this contamination. But better safe than sorry," stresses Bamberger.

Shortly after issuing this warning about the public drinking water supply, the solution was quickly found. "I heard about the

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problem in this area on the news, and offered to help straight away," says Josef Eisenmann, managing director at Eisenmann Bohr- und Umwelttechnik GmbH, based in Mattighofen (Austria). Eisenmann and his team have been stocking the innovative Ujeta water filter systems since August 2017. "The filters are highly efficient, easy to install, and at a good price, making them simply ideal," says Eisenmann.

Ujeta's innovative Home & Travel filter system is a mobile filter that even converts water from heavily contaminated pipes into clean drinking water. It removes 99.999 per cent of all bacteria, germs and other contaminants, to LOG 6 classification; for instance, it removes nitrates, pesticides, drug residues and heavy metals. The "fresh water source-to-go" is instantly ready for use, in just a few simple steps. Fitting the Ujeta water filter is child's play: it takes just 90 seconds, and does not require any tools.

Its efficiency and ease of handling also convinced chief executive Bamberger, who ordered eight Ujeta water filters for the drinking water supply in the nurseries and schools. "Two citizens who came to the town hall shortly afterwards wanted to know what they could do, given the problems with the drinking water supply. I immediately recommended the water filter to them, and ordered two more filters from Mr Eisenmann," says Bamberger. Staff from Eisenmann Bohr- und Umwelttechnik then completed the installation of the eight Ujeta water filters in the mains water taps in the nurseries and schools.

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The Ujeta water filters were only in use for a couple of days in St. Georgen before the emergency was scaled back. The contamination was limited just to that one spur pipe; the water utility company gave the all-clear for the remaining take-off points. The pipe in question was ultimately taken off-grid, and a new water pipe run to the building concerned. "After that, we removed the water filters from the taps again. They are now in storage at the town hall in case of emergency. If we have any further problems with our water, we have the water filters immediately to hand and can instantly ensure a healthy supply of drinking water in our nurseries and schools," explains Bamberger. A Ujeta filter can treat up to 5,000 litres of water, to produce the cleanest drinking water.

After the Ujeta water filters were installed in St. Georgen, Josef Eisenmann started to field inquiries from other local authorities. More and more towns and districts want to be prepared in case of an emergency involving drinking water contamination. But the Ujeta water filter is also a practical solution specifically for private homes. "Every house is required to have a fire alarm and a fire extinguisher. But no-one thinks about the drinking water. These filters are simply ideal for this. They are efficient, and it really is the case that every home can afford one," says Eisenmann. The Ujeta Home & Travel Set is available for just under EUR 90. By comparison, a conventional UV light decontamination system for use in the home costs well over 15 times as much.

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Demand for the innovative 'Made in Germany' water filter systems has increased dramatically in recent months - something that does not surprise Drita Schneider, managing director of Ujeta GmbH. "In Germany, we have been getting one drinking water alert after the other, practically every week. In one area the water needed to be boiled, and in another the water was being dosed weekly with chlorine. And with the constant growth in nitrate pollution in the groundwater, these problems are set to be with us for a long time."

### **About the Ujeta water filter:**

Ujeta stands for water (Kosovan "uje") and life (Kosovan "jeta"). The Ujeta water filter is one of the smallest and most effective water treatment systems in the world, with a filter output of up to 5,000 litres per unit. As a portable, lightweight water filter (weighing just 390 grams), it is quickly ready to use and filters the water in the place where it is needed, not where it is extracted. Thus the Ujeta water filter is leading to a lasting improvement in drinking water supply worldwide. Thanks to combined ultra-filtration using activated carbon and membrane filters (LOG 6 classification), the Ujeta water filter removes 99.999 per cent of all bacteria and germs, along with heavy metals, drug residues, chlorine products and chlorine decomposition products, pesticides, organic compounds and asbestos fibres.

The high-quality "Made in Germany" activated carbon filter operates with a filter fineness of up to 0.45µm, and also exploits the high absorption effect of the activated carbon, as a pure

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natural product. With its high-tech hollow-fibre membrane, the membrane filter, has a filter fineness of up to 0.1µm. Bacteria, germs, moulds, metal particles and microorganisms are thus retained in the membrane filter, while valuable minerals remain intact in the water. Energising bio-crystals and a special turbulence technique gives the filtered water a spring-water quality.

The effectiveness of the Ujeta water filter was confirmed by the well-known drinking-water laboratory of Dr. Staber & Kollegen. Scientific 'before and after' examinations using brackish pond water have shown that the Ujeta water filter is ultra-efficient in filtering out coliform bacteria, intestinal enterococci and E. coli. Where the brackish pond water exhibited 200.5 MPN/100 ml E.coli, after filtration using the Ujeta filter this was 0 MPN/100 ml.

### **About Ujeta GmbH**

Ujeta GmbH is a company based in Kirchheim (Allgäu). All Ujeta products are manufactured exclusively in Germany. That ensures high-quality "Made in Germany" products, with a guarantee of best manufacturing quality, and also secures jobs in the region. The Ujeta water filters are produced by Schneider Kunststofftechnik in Kirchheim, specialists for over 20 years in high-quality plastics processing. The family-run business is successfully DIN EN ISO 9001-, DIN EN ISO 50001- and DIN ISO 14001-certified, and is an active participant in "Umweltpaket Bayern", an agreement between the Bavarian state government and Bavarian business for cooperative environmental protection.

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## Photo materials:



## Captions:

### Home\_Travel\_01.jpg

The Ujeta Home+Travel water filter system. Photo: Ujeta

### Home\_Travel\_02.jpg and Home\_Travel\_03.jpg

The Ujeta Home+Travel water filter system fits any tap. Photo: Ujeta



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**Home\_Travel\_04.jpg and Home\_Travel\_03.jpg**

Also available in white, the Ujeta Home+Travel water filter system looks great in the kitchen. Photo: Ujeta