



Whatman™ filters for water quality testing

Customer testimonial

Water and Waste GmbH is one of Austria's premier analytical testing laboratories for assessing contamination of both potable and non-potable water. The company has a reputation for quality that is backed up by their ISO 9001 and ISO 17025 certifications, and it has four offices that support testing of samples from across Austria. The results of their work impact public health by allowing their industrial customers to determine the level of work required for remediating environmental damage and informing local governments on how to handle potential drinking water contamination issues.

Ing. Dr. Valentin Lordachita is responsible for developing and optimizing Water and Waste's analytical testing processes with a special focus on organic chemistry. He highlights the challenge his laboratory faces in meeting its customers' expectations for quality, fast turnaround, and value. He states, "It is critical to optimize the ratio between the resources we put into doing our work and the results we get out." This is why Dr. Lordachita's lab uses Whatman syringes and membrane filters from GE Healthcare's Life Sciences business.

"We had used filters from a different company in the past, but we switched because we got a package of expertise, quality, and fair pricing." Dr. Lordachita explains that he was contacted by a GE filtration specialist who advised him that he may be able to find a syringe filter better suited to preparing samples for heavy metal analysis using Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS). The specialist provided him with several different filters to test and gave advice on which filters would optimize speed and volume performance while minimizing blank values that will introduce noise into test results if an unsuitable filter is used. "We use so many filters that we have to be concerned with both price and quality. Many of our samples are acidic or have a very fine particle size that can clog the filter. This clogging can increase the back pressure to the point of bursting an inferior filter." Moreover, Dr. Lordachita was able to find a variety of Whatman syringe filters that offer different combinations of glass pre-filtration layers and membrane layers of varying pore sizes to ensure that his team members always have a suitable filter on hand for their specific application.

Last year Water and Waste analyzed over 4000 water samples for heavy metal contamination, and the number of samples is growing rapidly. The filtration step is one of the most sensitive and critical in their testing process – a small step that makes a big difference to the quality of their result. When asked about Water and Waste's future with GE's Whatman products, Dr. Lordachita summarizes it simply, "As long as you continue to provide GE quality at a reasonable price, we are happy to stay with Whatman products. I wouldn't change."

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GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Björkgatan 30, 751 84 Uppsala, Sweden
GE Healthcare Europe, GmbH, Munzinger Strasse 5, D-79111 Freiburg, Germany
GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp., 100 Results Way, Marlborough, MA 01752 USA
GE Healthcare Dharmacon, Inc., 2650 Crescent Dr, Lafayette, CO 80026 USA
HyClone Laboratories, Inc., 925 W 1800 S, Logan, UT 84321 USA
GE Healthcare Japan Corporation, Sanken Bldg., 3-25-1, Hyakunincho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0073, Japan
For local office contact information, visit www.gelifesciences.com/contact
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GE Healthcare UK Limited
Amersham Place
Little Chalfont
Buckinghamshire, HP7 9NA
UK