How and Where to Buy Distilled Water in France

In France, **distilled water** is commonly used for household purposes, such as in irons, car batteries, humidifiers, and medical devices. While it may not always be labeled as “distilled water,” it is widely available under the name **“eau déminéralisée”** or **“eau distillée”**.

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1. Understanding the Terminology

- **Eau déminéralisée**: This translates to **demineralized water**, which is the most common equivalent of distilled water in France. It is free of minerals and safe for most appliances.
- **Eau distillée**: This specifically means **distilled water**, but it’s less commonly sold for household use.

For most purposes (like irons, humidifiers, or cleaning), **eau déminéralisée** is sufficient.

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2. Where to Buy Distilled (or Demineralized) Water

You can find **distilled water** in various places across France:

A. Supermarkets and Hypermarkets

1. **Where**: Large supermarkets such as **Carrefour**, **Auchan**, **Intermarché**, **Leclerc**, and **Monoprix** stock distilled water in the cleaning or household products aisle.
2. **How to Find It**: Look for bottles labeled **“Eau Déminéralisée”** or sometimes **“Eau Distillée”**. Look in the aise for cleaning or laundry products “*lessive ou produits d'entretien*”
3. **Packaging**: Typically sold in **1-liter**, **2-liter**, or larger **5-liter jugs**.
4. **Price**: Usually inexpensive, around **€0.50–€1.50 per liter** depending on the size and store

B. Hardware Stores and DIY Stores

1. **Where**: Stores like **Bricorama**, **Castorama**, **Leroy Merlin**, or **Brico Dépôt** carry distilled or demineralized water, especially for appliances and automotive use.
2. **Purpose**: Often sold for use in car batteries, steam irons, or cleaning delicate equipment.

C. Pharmacies

1. **Where**: Local **pharmacies** sometimes stock smaller bottles of distilled water.
2. **Purpose**: Typically intended for medical or hygienic uses (e.g., cleaning contact lenses, CPAP

machines).
3. **Note**: Pharmacies may sell a purer version of distilled water, but it can be more expensive.
4. **Tip**: 100% of pharmacists speak English in France. They will certainly understand what distilled water you need and will be pleased to practice their English and help you.

D. Automotive Supply Stores

1. **Where**: Stores like **Norauto**, **Feu Vert**, or other car maintenance shops.
2. **Purpose**: Often marketed for use in car radiators and batteries.
3. **Label**: Look for “Eau Déminéralisée pour batterie” (demineralized water for batteries).

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3. How to Ask for Distilled Water in French

If you’re having trouble finding it, here’s how to ask for distilled water in French:

- **“Bonjour, où puis-je trouver de l’eau déminéralisée, s’il vous plaît?”**
    1. Translation: *Hello, where can I find demineralized water, please?*
- If they don’t understand, try:
    1. **“Je cherche de l’eau pour fer à repasser ou pour batterie.”**
        1. Translation: *I’m looking for water for an iron or car battery.*

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4. Things to Keep in Mind

- **Labels**: Always check the label to ensure it is suitable for your intended use.
- **Usage**:
    1. For household appliances (irons, humidifiers): **Eau déminéralisée** is perfect.
    2. For medical devices: Look for **pharmaceutical-grade distilled water** in pharmacies.
- **Storage**: Store the water in a cool, dry place and keep the cap tightly sealed to prevent contamination.

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5. Summary

To buy distilled water in France:

- Go to **supermarkets** (Carrefour, Auchan, etc.) or **DIY stores** (Castorama, Leroy Merlin).
- Look for **“Eau Déminéralisée”** or **“Eau Distillée”** on the label.
- Ask for help by saying: **“Où est l’eau déminéralisée, s’il vous plaît?”**
- Expect affordable prices, especially in larger bottles for household use

- Go to **pharmacies** for distilled water for *medical uses*

With this guide, you'll easily locate distilled water for any purpose during your stay in France.

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