

Private Water Supply Guidelines



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Aim of this document

To inform users and owners of private water supplies of the risks associated with private water supplies.

What is a private water supply?

A private water supply can be defined as a supply of water not provided by a statutory water undertaker, large authority or corporation. The responsibility for a private water supplies maintenance and repair lies with the owner or the person using it. Other definitions include; small water supply; rural water supply; community supply or even non-community supply. Owners of these supplies often refer to them as springs, wells, boreholes, or watercourses and the premises served can be individual houses, farms or businesses, small settlements or villages. In some cases a private water supply may only serve a single household and provide less than one cubic metre of water per day. In other cases a private water supply may serve several properties or commercial or industrial premises and provide 1,000 cubic metres of water, or more each day.

What problems are associated with private water supplies?

Private water supplies often provide water that looks good and tastes good—but the water they supply often contains impurities that can be harmful to health or damaging to expensive equipment such as household appliances, fixtures and fittings.

As a user of a private water supply, what should I do to keep my water clean and safe?

Spend a little time learning about your supply. As a minimum requirement, you should know the following;

- Who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the main supply? If the supply serves more than one dwelling, is there an agreement regarding maintenance?
- Where is the source the source of the supply?
- Where are the catchment tanks, storage tanks, and pipe runs etc.
- Is there any water filtration equipment or other treatment installed?
- If filters are installed, when were they last serviced?

Periodic checking and maintenance

It makes good sense to regularly inspect all of the parts that make up your supply. This often includes inspecting tanks, pipework etc. to make sure they are in good repair. Corrective measures should be taken wherever damage has occurred. Better still; attend to potential problems before they become serious. Prevention is often better than cure.