

What can I do?

Make sure you know where your water comes from and how it reaches your tap. Knowing this can help you understand what could cause a problem.

- Clarify who is responsible for maintenance of the supply. Contact the owners of the land where the source is, and discuss your supply with them, and where the source, tanks and pipework are.
- Clarify who is responsible for the whole supply system including water treatment equipment and that it is maintained according to manufacturers' instructions.



Your Rights...

You, your family and visitors to your home or business all have the right to expect clean safe drinking water. Many supplies meet the regulatory requirements, however, there are a number of groups that may be at risk from microbiological contamination from a private water supply, such as visitors or employees who normally drink mains water at home; elderly people and people with weakened immune systems.

Want to know more...

For further information please contact your Local Council, the Drinking Water Inspectorate at www.dwi.gov.uk or www.privatewatersupplies.gov.uk.

Your Comments...

- **I have drunk it for years and it hasn't hurt me...**

Some people are not affected as much as others. Studies show children under 10 years old, whose homes have a private water supply, are nearly 4 times more likely to suffer from diarrhoea than other children. This can also affect children who are visitors to a premise with a private supply.



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Private Water Supplies



Greater Manchester Public
Protection Partnership

Public Information Leaflet

Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009

What are these Regulations?

The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 came into force on January 1st 2010.

Who do they apply to:

All private supplies intended for human consumption. This includes:

- Domestic purposes (drinking, cooking, food preparation & washing)
- Commercial (food production)

What is the objective?

The Regulations are concerned with the wholesomeness of water obtained from private supplies and require your Local Council to sample and analyse water from these supplies. The Regulations are a result of a European Directive that requires everybody to have access to a water supply of equal quality to the mains supply.

Classification:

- **Commercial Supplies (any with private supply used for food preparation etc):** A full risk assessment to be completed once every 5 years and sampling at least twice per year.
- **Large Supplies (to more than one property):** A risk assessment to be completed once every 5 years and sampling at least once per year (frequency will relate to volume of water used by supply).
- **Small Supplies (more than one property but less than 50 persons using supply)** A risk assessment must be completed once every 5 years and monitoring frequency will relate to the risk assessment.
- **Small Supplies (one property only):** Sampling and risk assessment will be undertaken **only** if requested to do so by owner / occupier.
- **Private Distribution Systems (Water supplied by United Utilities which is further distributed by third party pipes):** As Small Supplies (more than one property)

What is a risk assessment?

A risk assessment will look at the source of the supply and the surrounding area to see if contamination is possible. It also involves checks of the storage tanks, any treatment systems and the pipework. The risk assessment identifies any actual and potential hazards that may affect the health of those drinking the water, so that you can take action to make sure your water supply is safe to drink.

Where will the sample be taken from?

The risk assessment and the volume of water used by each supply will determine the frequency of sampling. The sample will be taken from a tap used to supply water for drinking or cooking.

What will we be sampling for?

Untreated water can contain microorganisms (from animal droppings or human sewage) or chemical contamination which may not be detectable by taste or smell. We will be assessing the water for both chemical and biological parameters which are listed within the regulations.

Results

The results of the sampling will be forwarded to you within 28 days of sampling. If the results are unsatisfactory further action will be required.

What sort of improvements might be needed?

Improvements might be required at the source itself, or to the pipes or fittings inside your home, for example:

- Repairing the system to prevent dirty water, animals or droppings entering the water, e.g. sealing roofs on collection chambers, fencing around source etc.
- Installing an appropriate water treatment system to ensure satisfactory microbiological quality and where required, water filters etc.
- Replacing lead pipes in a property is the only way to reduce lead levels in your drinking water supply.

Approved fittings

The Drinking Water Inspectorate has published an approved fitting list. The list is available from www.dwi.gov.uk and is updated every year.

Authorisations

If a private supply is unwholesome but does not present a risk to health we have the power to grant an 'Authorisation' of different standards for chemical parameters to the responsible person. This is a temporary measure until the necessary remedial action is implemented and cannot be for more than two years.

Restriction Notice

If the private supply constitutes a risk to human health we have a new power to serve a 'Restriction Notice' on the owner to prohibit or restrict the use of the supply. It will be an offence to breach a Restriction Notice or fail to comply with it.

Improvement Notice

Where we cannot resolve a problem informally and we do not grant an authorisation we may serve an 'Improvement Notice' on the responsible person(s). We will specify in the Notice what works or measures are necessary to remedy the failure and the compliance period. We have the power to carry out the works and recover the costs.

Charges

These are **maximum** amounts chargeable to the owner/ occupier (or anyone requesting anything):

- Risk Assessment (each assessment) - £500
- Sampling (each visit) - £100
- Investigation (each investigation) - £100
- Granting an Authorisation - £100
- Analysing a sample -

£25 (taken under regulation 10)

£100 (taken during check monitoring)

£500 (taken during audit monitoring)