



PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (WALES) REGULATIONS 2017

The above Regulations came into force in November 2017 and supersede the Private Water Supplies Regulation 1991 and Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2010. The main emphasis of the new Regulations is on protecting the supply from source to tap.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Are there many changes that will affect you?

Yes - in addition to taking samples of the supply and analysing them, a risk assessment is required to be undertaken on large supplies and those which supply water as part of commercial or public activity (e.g. camping and caravan sites, food manufacturers, hotels, hostels, bed and breakfast establishments [including Airbnb], holiday lets, schools and tenanted properties), and this will need to be repeated every 5 years. The risk assessment is to check the condition of your private water supply. It means looking at the source of the supply and the surrounding area to see what could lead to contamination of the supply. It also involves checking the storage tanks, any treatment systems and the pipe work. A fee will be charged for a risk assessment visit. Whilst sampling can suggest what impurities/contaminants may occur in the water at the tap, the risk assessment identifies the actual or potential causes. This means that suitable action can be taken to sort any problems and therefore prevent the situation from getting worse or even starting in the first place.

Is there anything that the supply owner/user can do to protect the water supply?

The most important thing you can do is to know your water supply system and look after it; by ensuring regular maintenance and providing treatment in accordance with the manufacturers of relevant equipment.

Your private water supply is composed of the source, the pipe(s) that convey the water to your home or premises (including any tanks or junctions along the way) and finally the plumbing within your home or premises.

You should know about **all** parts of the water supply system so that you can tell if something changes or goes wrong. The risk assessment requires you to have a suitable diagram of the layout of your supply for inspection. This will place you in a better position to react if there are changes in the quality of the water or if something else goes wrong with the supply. If you share the supply, or your pipes run across somebody else's land then it would be a good idea to talk to the landowner and others sharing the supply so that you have full knowledge of the system and where necessary with arrangements in place, in the event of an emergency.

What protection measures should you have in place?

There are many simple but important measures that you can take to protect your supply. These should include:

- ✓ Fencing off the source so that animals cannot enter and contaminate the source or any storage tank in the system. The fencing should be at least 4 metres in circumference of the source
- ✓ Making sure that the source and any tanks are well covered to prevent animals/birds entering the supply.
- ✓ Preventing surface water from getting into the system especially in wet weather.
- ✓ Making sure that overflows and vents are protected with a fine mesh to prevent access to pests, flies, snails etc.
- ✓ Making sure that your system is secure from anyone tampering with it.
- ✓ Prevent fertilizers, slurry, and silage from entering the system.
- ✓ Make sure that any drainage systems work correctly so that water from soakaways/overflows does not get into the system.
- ✓ If you have any treatment system in place check the following: all filters, and change them regularly; check and change any UV bulbs regularly; clean the UV unit so that your system works more efficiently; check any chemical dosing systems so that you maintain correct dosing.

What does the risk assessment involve?

An officer from Gwynedd Council's Public Protection Department will contact you to arrange for a site visit. The officer will need to examine the whole supply from the source to the kitchen tap, including any storage tanks and treatment systems. A prescribed form will be used to identify any hazards to the supply and this will allow a risk rating to be given for the supply. From this rating and observations made, the Council can then decide whether or not you will be required to carry out any remedial improvement work. Risk assessments must be repeated every 5 years.

What if the results of the risk assessment or samples taken are unsatisfactory?

If the sample results are unsatisfactory, the Council will investigate why this might have occurred and require you to make any necessary improvements e.g. protect the source, change the UV bulb. However, if the sample failure or observed hazard is a potential danger to human health, the Council will have to serve an Improvement Notice on the relevant person to make the necessary improvements. Until the improvements are made, we will advise all consumers on how to protect themselves e.g. by boiling the water.

Further guidance is available on the Drinking Water Inspectorate web page:

<http://www.dwi.gov.uk/private-water-supply/index.htm>