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What are Water Fittings Regulations?

Overview

In 1999 the Government introduced the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations to protect public health by safeguarding the drinking water supply.

The aim is to prevent contamination, misuse, incorrect measurement and waste. The Regulations apply from the point where the water enters the property boundary, to the point the water is used.

Enforcement

Water companies are legally required to enforce the Regulations in their area.

We carry out inspections of new and existing installations to make sure they comply. If we find any issues, we will send out notices asking you to fix them by a certain date. In the most serious cases, we can legally disconnect water supplies to protect public health.

**Breaching the Regulations is a criminal offence.
Offenders may face prosecution.**



Plumbing system design and installation

The Regulations cover the design, installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing systems, including the fittings and appliances used.

This is to ensure public health by keeping water clean and safe. The focus is on making plumbing systems safe, easy to access, and free from contamination via pipes, fittings or backflow (when water flows back towards the source, instead of outwards). This happens when the point of discharge becomes submerged.

This could be from taps, hoses, equipment or processes where water can come into contact with materials, chemicals or fluids which could potentially contaminate it.

Whatever the source of contamination, water supplied by your water supplier must be protected. For this reason, the Regulations require adequate protection to be built in to prevent backflow. Potential contaminants are divided into five categories based on the harm they could cause. The Regulations also specify which devices can be used to prevent backflow and which fluid categories they can protect against.

These are listed on the next page.

The five fluid categories

There are five fluid categories in which water and fluids can sit.

Below is a list of the fluids and the types of backflow prevention devices that can be used to prevent backflow.

| Fluid category | Description | Example | Prevention (Examples) |
|----------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | Wholesome water supplied by your water company | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Anglian Water | None needed |
| 2 | Water with a slight change of temperature, taste or odour | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Ice machine· Fire sprinkler systems (without antifreeze)· Water cooled air conditioning unit (without additives) | Single Check Valve (Type EA) |
| 3 | Fluid which represents a slight health hazard | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Drink vending machines in which ingredients or carbon dioxide are injected· Washbasins, baths, showers· Commercial water softeners | Double Check Valve (Type EC) |
| 4 | Fluid which represents a significant health hazard | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Dairies· Food preparation· Brewery and distillation plant· Commercial boiler top-up system | RPZ Valve (Type BA device) |
| 5 | Fluid which represents a serious health hazard | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Grey Water recycling systems· Medical or dental equipment· Vegetable washing· Sewage treatment, including sewer and drain cleaning· Water for agricultural use· Commercial washing machines | AA or AB Air Gap |



Notifications of changes, alterations and change of use

As part of the Regulations, you are required to let us know of any proposed changes or alterations to your plumbing, or if you change how you use any part of your premises.

1. Give notice to us that you propose to begin work.
2. Don't begin work without our consent (which won't be unreasonably withheld).
3. Comply with any conditions to which we consent is subject.

The simplest way to submit your notification is to complete the [online form here](#).

This notice should include:

- A map showing location of the work.
- A plan showing which parts of the premises the proposal relates to.
- A schematic mechanical drawing showing the extent of the work being carried out.
- A schedule of fittings and appliances to be used.

You can send this via email:

waterregulations@anglianwater.co.uk

Or by post:

Water Regulations team
Anglian Water
Lancaster House
Lancaster Way
Huntingdon.
PE29 6YJ

WaterSafe and approved plumbers

The Water Fittings Regulations introduced the concept of Approved Plumbers, which identifies qualified plumbers who are competent in the Regulations. Approved Plumber status carries statutory responsibilities which benefit plumbers and their customers.

These Approved Plumbers will confirm that the work they've done complies with the Regulations by issuing a certificate of compliance.

If breaches of Regulations are then found in the certified work, the legal responsibility falls upon the Plumber and not on the owner or occupier.

You can find a list of approved plumbers on the [WaterSafe website here](#).

You can find more information about water regulations for [Farm & Agriculture](#) and [Hotel & Catering](#) on our website [here](#).

For further information

Please contact Anglian Water if you have any further questions about water fitting regulations.

Call: **0345 600 1063**

Email: waterregulations@anglianwater.co.uk

Web: anglianwater.co.uk/waterregs

