



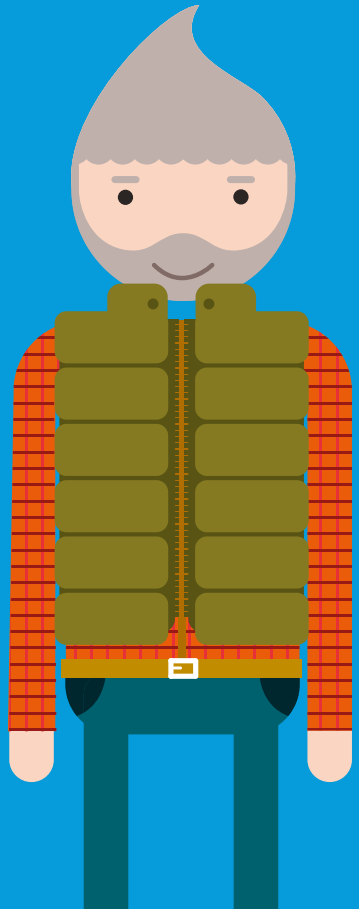
Dŵr Cymru  
Welsh Water

# Water Regulations



Information for  
keeping your  
agricultural  
premises safe.

Keeping our water safe  
and our customers safer.



## What are the Regulations?

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 (the Regulations) apply to premises which are supplied with a wholesome water supply by Welsh Water.

They are the national requirements for the design, installation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and water consuming appliances across Wales and England.

The main purpose of the Regulations is to protect public health by preventing the waste, misuse, undue consumption, erroneous measurement and, most importantly, contamination of the water that we supply to our customers.

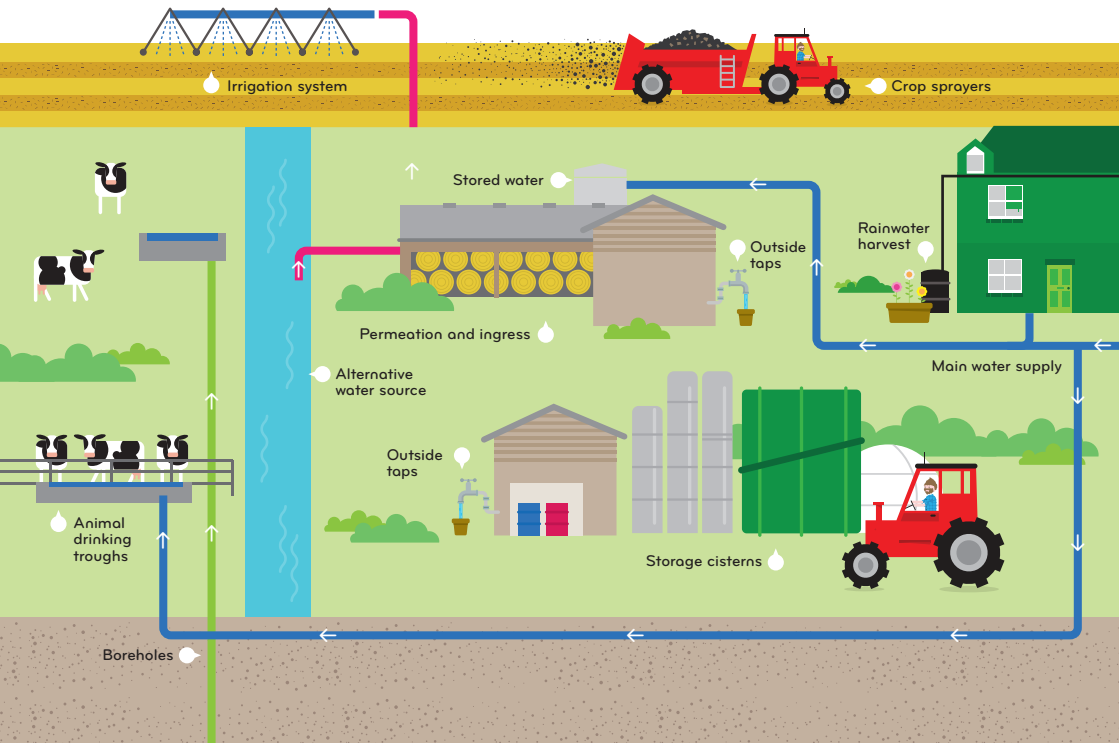
## Who must comply with the Regulations?

Our customers must comply with these Regulations as the owners or occupants of premises we supply. Anyone installing or proposing to install water fittings must also comply. Failure to do so could result in enforcement action and prosecution.

## Where do the Regulations apply?

The Regulations apply to all pipework and fittings within the customer's boundary. That's everything from your supply pipe right up to and including any appliances using mains water.

Potential risk areas around your premises where water can become contaminated.

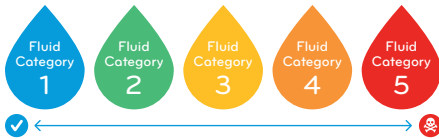


## Welsh Water's role

As your water supplier, Welsh Water is duty bound to enforce the requirements of the Regulations in your premises.

Our Regulators can audit us on how we operate in our enforcement role to ensure that the approach to our customers is consistent, fair and in line with the requirements of the Regulations. Welsh Water publishes an enforcement policy on our website where you can learn more about how we work with our customers to encourage compliance across our supply area.

## Fluid categories – know the risk



Water fittings and known contaminants are given a Fluid Category risk rating. The Fluid Category indicates the level of risk to the drinking water supply and the wider network in a contamination event.

These categories are assigned specific back flow protection which protect the water supply up to that specific category.

## Points to note on agricultural premises

These are examples of issues identified during Water Regulations inspections on agricultural premises. Please note this list is not exhaustive and issues vary from site to site.

### 1. Animal Drinking Troughs

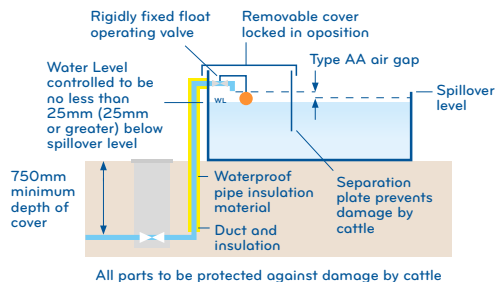
As troughs are open to exposure, they are a high risk for contamination from things like animal matter or insects. As a fluid category 5 risk it requires, by law, a suitable barrier between itself and the mains water supply to prevent risk to your premises and surrounding communities.



- Consider fitting a raised service box to achieve an adequate air gap.
- Check trough is level and ball valve is working.

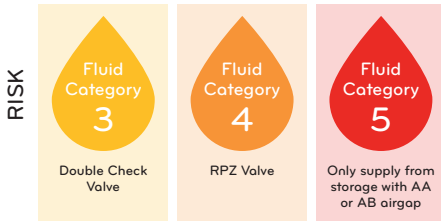


- Install any outlets that can become submerged.
- Allow the trough to overflow.



## 2. Hose Union Taps

The potential risk posed by a hose union tap varies, and the fluid category of any fluids it may come into contact with. For example, a hose union tap in an area where there would be lots of slurry would be considered a fluid category 5 risk.



**Tip:** Use retaining clips or a retractable hose reel to secure a hose in place and to prevent it from being submerged or contaminated by anything nearby.



Hoses should never be submerged in buckets, troughs, drains or laying on the ground.

## 3. Alternative Water Sources

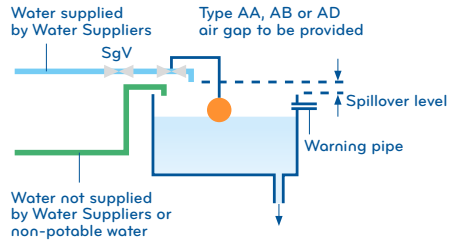
Many farms have an alternative source of water, such as a borehole or spring, used for a variety of purposes. No alternative source of water should be directly connected to the mains drinking water supply.



If mains and alternative water sources are wanted in conjunction with one another the only legal and compliant way to do this is via a cistern with an AA, AB or AD airgap arrangement. Make sure you use the correct marker tape (green and black) and the appropriate airgap.



Mains water must never be connected directly in such a way to encounter private water, even as a backup. Any back up supply must be connected via a compliant Category 5 feed set up.



Please note if water is drawn via this arrangement for wholesome water purposes then all pipework and points of use downstream of this arrangement must also comply with the Water Regulations.

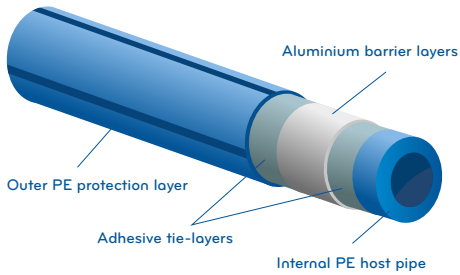
## 4. Irrigation Systems

If mains water is used for irrigation it is important the system complies with the Regulations.

- Small systems with no additives are generally considered to be a fluid category 3 risk and can be fitted with a double check valve. If it contains sprinkler heads, they must be fixed no less than 150mm above the ground. These types of systems are typically found in domestic gardens, hanging basket arrangements and small allotments.
- All larger systems, including those installed below ground, with or without additives are generally considered to be a fluid category 5 risk and would require an appropriate level of backflow protection.

## 5. Ingress And Permeation

Spillages of fuel and chemicals near to plastic water pipes have the potential to seep into standard plastic pipes and contaminate the drinking water supply. To prevent this from happening compliant barrier pipes should be used where necessary. This is required for new installations where oil or fuel storage is present on site or where the ground has been previously contaminated.



### Notification

Do you intend to extend or alter your non-domestic or agricultural plumbing system? You may need to give us notification first so we can help you keep your drinking water safe. Get in touch with us to see if this is the case.

### Avoid plumbing problems

To avoid contamination of your water supply you should only use compliant fittings. Not all products for sale will be compliant once installed, so you should always check that the products meet appropriate standards.

One way to demonstrate a product may be suitable is to look for independent approval or certification, such as those offered by KiWA UK REG4, NSF Reg4 or WRAS Approval.

In addition to purchasing compliant fittings, we recommend they are installed by a WaterSafe plumber.

These are qualified professionals who have undertaken additional training to demonstrate suitable knowledge of the Regulations therefore reducing the risk of your premise being non-compliant and costing to rectify.



**WaterSafe** is a free-to-use directory where you can find Approved Contractors closest to your area. It is an organisation which brings together the seven existing Approved Contractors' Schemes operating in the UK under one roof.



**WIAPS** is one of the seven Approved Contractors' Schemes operating under WaterSafe. WaterSafe membership is also free for eligible existing Approved Contractors' Scheme members.

## Contacting us

For further advice on the Regulations you can contact a member of our dedicated Water Regulations team. This document highlights only few of the requirements of the Regulations and all installations must comply fully with all the Regulations.

If you have questions relating to a specific installation or something else to do with our enforcement of the Regulations, it's probably best to contact us directly.

You can get in touch with us via email:  
**[WaterRegulations@dwrcymru.com](mailto:WaterRegulations@dwrcymru.com)**

We also have lots of handy information available on our website:

**[www.dwrcymru.com/en/help-advice/water-advice/water-regulations](http://www.dwrcymru.com/en/help-advice/water-advice/water-regulations)**



You can also obtain information about the Regulations elsewhere, like from the Water Regs UK.

Phone: **01495 983010**

Website: **[www.waterregsuk.co.uk](http://www.waterregsuk.co.uk)**

Email: **[info@waterregsuk.co.uk](mailto:info@waterregsuk.co.uk)**

