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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.**

Their aim is to prevent contamination, misuse, undue consumption, erroneous measurement and waste. The Regulations apply from the point where the water enters the property's boundary to the point the water is used.

## Enforcement

**Water companies have a legal obligation to enforce the Regulations in their area of supply.**

We carry out inspections of new and existing installations to ensure compliance. Where infringements are found, improvement notices will be issued stating a date for rectification. In the most serious cases we can legally disconnect water supplies to protect public health.



**It must be remembered that the seriousness in breaching these regulations is such that it is a criminal offence and 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 protect public health by maintaining water quality, ensure safety, ease of access and to prevent contamination by pipes, fittings or by backflow. Backflow is where the water flows back towards the supply source, either by siphonic action (backsiphonage) or forced back under pressure (backpressure), 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 this backflow from occurring. The Regulations place potential contaminants and substances into one of five fluid categories dependant on the harm it may cause. It also specifies devices for preventing backflow that may be used and the fluid categories they are able to protect against.

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



## Notifications of changes alterations and change of use

As part of the regulations you are required to notify us of any proposed changes or alterations to your plumbing or any material change of use of any premises or part of the premises.

1. Give notice to us that you propose to begin work.
2. Don't begin work without our consent, which shall not be withheld unreasonably.
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](#).**

And should include:

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

Email

[waterregulations@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:waterregulations@anglianwater.co.uk)

Post

Anglian Water Services  
Water Regulations  
Heigham Water Treatment Works  
Waterworks Road  
Norwich. NR2 4DA

## Watersafe and approved plumbers

The Water Fittings Regulations introduced the concept of Approved Contractors, more commonly known as Approved Plumbers. This is to identify qualified plumbers who are competent in the regulations. Approved Plumber status carries certain statutory responsibilities which benefit plumbers and their customers.

These Approved Plumbers will certify the installation or maintenance work they have carried out 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 Approved Plumber and not on the owner or occupier.

Anglian Water has its own Approved Plumber Scheme, known as Aplus, however we also recognise other approved plumbers covered under the WaterSafe umbrella as competent operators.

**You can find a list of approved plumbers in the [here](#).**

**You can find further details information for Farm & Agricultural, Hotel & Catering [here](#).**

# For further information

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

Call: **0345 60 66 087**

Email: [waterregulations@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:waterregulations@anglianwater.co.uk)

Web: [anglianwater.co.uk/waterregs](http://anglianwater.co.uk/waterregs)

