



# Tips to keep your water supply clean and healthy

**Bolton**  
at **Home**

**The water supplied to your home must meet the standards set in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000. The standards are strict and your water company is monitored by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) who carry out regular tests to ensure that your water quality meets the required standards.**

### **The DWI tests for:**

- Bacteria
- Chemicals such as nitrates and pesticides
- Metals such as lead
- And also, the way your water looks and tastes.

Things you do in the home can affect your water quality and even encourage bacteria growth.

**Here are some hints and tips to keep your water supply clean and healthy.**

### **Safe at 60°C**

If you have a domestic hot water storage tank, a combination boiler or a multi-point water heater in your home, make sure the thermostat is set at 60°C.

Do not reduce this setting as bacteria can multiply at lower temperatures.

If you are away from home for long periods (for example holidays or hospital stays) the water in your system can deteriorate if unused. When you return home, heat up your system to the normal temperature and open each tap and run for at least 5 minutes to empty the system of any stale water.

### **Looking after your taps**

Tap spouts on your bath and sinks can become dirty so, to be safe, clean tap spouts by wiping with a dilute bleach solution. If the tap is heavily scaled this can be dislodged using a nylon brush.

If you have an outside tap then it must have a backflow prevention device, usually a double check valve.





## Looking after your shower head

If you have a shower fitted with a flexible hose make sure that a hose retaining ring is fitted to prevent the shower head falling into your bath water. Don't use rubber push-on shower hoses on your bath taps, because if your water company have to turn off your water supply in an emergency the contents of your bath may be siphoned back into the mains causing contamination. Clean your shower head regularly using a nylon then soak them in a bleach solution.

## Washing machines and dishwashers

Any appliances you buy which are connected to the water supply must comply with the water regulations. All domestic appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers are manufactured to the appropriate standards but many commercial appliances do not and so are not suitable for home use.

## Water filters

Both jug and fixed types must be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**For more information about  
your water supply, contact:**

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