

Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

Testing, flushing and disinfection requirements – guidance notes

We'd like to draw your attention to the requirements within the Regulations that state "Every water system shall be (pressure) tested, flushed and where necessary disinfected before it is first used". The following notes are for your guidance:

PRESSURE TEST REQUIREMENTS

(Schedule 2, section 4, paragraph 12)

In general the plumbing system shall be capable of withstanding an internal water pressure not less than 1.5 times the maximum pressure to which the installation or relevant part is designed to be subjected in operation ("the test pressure").

The criteria for a water system that does not include plastic pipe is -

- (i) the whole system is subjected to the test pressure by pumping, after which the test continues for one hour without further pumping;
- (ii) the pressure in the system is maintained for one hour; and
- (iii) there is no visible leakage throughout the test in any other case, the criteria is either:

TEST A

- (i) the whole system is subjected to the test pressure by pumping for 30 minutes, after which the test continues for 90 minutes without further pumping;
- (ii) the pressure is reduced to one third of the test pressure after 30 minutes;
- (iii) the pressure does not drop below one third of the test pressure over the following 90 minutes; and
- (iv) there is no visible leakage throughout the test.

TEST B

- (i) the whole system is subjected to the test pressure by pumping for 30 minutes, after which the pressure is noted and the test continues for 150 minutes without further pumping; the drop in pressure is less than 0.6 bar (60kPa) after the following 30 minutes, or 0.8 bar (80kPa) after the following 150 minutes; and
- (ii) there is no visible leakage throughout the test.

FLUSHING OF INSTALLATIONS

(Schedule 2, section 4, paragraph 13)

This should be in accordance with Clause 5.2.3.1 of BS8558: 2011. It is essential that each length of pipe within the system is flushed to remove any debris, including excess flux, that may have collected in the pipework during installation.

DISINFECTION OF INSTALLATIONS

(Schedule 2, section 4, paragraph 13)

This should be in accordance with Clause 5.2.3.5 of BS 8558: 2011. Where required under Clause G13.2 all pipework, both above and below ground level, carrying water for domestic purposes should be disinfected as specified in Clause G13.3 and this clause.

Clause G13.3

After testing and flushing, systems should be disinfected in the following instances:

- a) New installations (except private dwellings occupied by a single family); or
- b) major extensions or alterations (except private dwellings occupied by a single family); or
- c) underground pipework (except localised repairs or insertion of junctions); or
- d) where it is suspected that contamination may have occurred, e.g. fouling by sewage, drainage, animals or physical entry by site personnel for interior inspection, painting or repairs; or
- e) where a system has not been in regular use and not regularly flushed.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

- 1) Where the supply pipe is 63mm OD (outside diameter) or greater, the customer is required to submit a "Bacteriological Certificate", prior to the connection with the water main. This shall include all internal and external pipework and fire fighting supplies.
- 2) Southern Water considers that in the case of a comparatively small installation such as a single house with a 25mm pipe, it is normally sufficient for the system to be fully inspected and flushed out. Each cistern should be carefully inspected and any deleterious matter removed.
- 3) The provision for wholesome water for pressure testing, flushing and disinfection must be agreed in advance of the work being carried out, e.g. the use of licensed standpipe, bowser, or building supply.

If you would like any further information please email: water.regs@southernwater.co.uk

Please retain these notes for your future reference

3 Description of proposed work

(Please refer to the accompanying guidance notes)

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- Yes No **Rainwater harvesting** (excluding water butts)
- Yes No **Grey water recycling**
- Yes No **Fire sprinkler system**
- Yes No **Supply pipes less than 750mm cover**
(e.g. by use of proprietary insulated products)

Planned date for work to commence

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E. Plumbing details

Except for installations listed at **4(a), 4(c), 4(h)** or **5** in the accompanying notes, **please provide plumbing details** to include pipework, fittings and appliances to be installed. A plan or drawing showing the planned position of the proposed plumbing and fittings should also be attached.

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F. Approved contractor (individual or firm)

Name

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Address

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..... **Postcode**

Business phone

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G. Water industry approved plumber

If the contractor is a member of the WIAPS, please give the membership number:

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If not a WIAPS member, but a member of another approved contractor scheme, please provide evidence of current membership.

Checklist and Declaration

I understand that the Regulations do not allow the installation of plumbing systems or water fittings which are supplied or are to be supplied with water provided by Southern Water without prior consent from Southern Water. I also understand that such installations must be carried out in accordance to the Regulations and that every water fitting must be professionally installed, connected, altered, repaired or disconnected.

Applicants should be aware that it is a criminal offence to breach these Regulations and an offence could result in prosecution.

Signature

Full name (capitals)

Date

Please return completed form to:

**Water Regulations Notification,
Southern Water, Sparrowgrove House, Sparrowgrove,
Otterbourne, Hampshire, SO21 2SW**

Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999

Notification of proposed works for the granting of consent

These Regulations are national requirements for the design, installation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances. Their purpose is to prevent contamination, waste, misuse, undue consumption and erroneous measurement of the water supplied by us. We are responsible to the Government for the enforcement of the Regulations within our area of supply.

These notes have been compiled to assist in giving notice, under the Regulations. Regulation 5, detailed in the table below, describes the plumbing work which must be notified in advance.

In most cases, before plumbing work starts on a proposed installation, the installer, owner or occupier must obtain the water supplier's consent by submitting the details (notification).

Description of proposed work – Section D(3)

When completing D(3) you may wish to use the numbered codes from the table below. Please list all the numbers relevant to the proposed installation.

Approved contractor – Section F and G

An approved contractor will certify that the work satisfies the Regulations. Should the certified work be found in breach of the Regulations, the legal obligation falls upon the approved contractor not the owner/occupier.

An approved contractor can carry out work in categories 2, 4(b) and 4(g) in the table without giving prior notification, provided that they certify in writing that the work complies with the Regulation, after completion to the person who commissioned the works.

Plumbers registered with the Water Industry Approved Plumbers Scheme (WIAPS) have demonstrated their experience of plumbing work and knowledge of the Regulations, and have liability insurance cover. We support the WIAPS scheme and can provide a list of approved plumbers who are available for work in the region.

This list and other Regulations information is also available from the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme, call **0333 207 9030** or visit **wras.co.uk**.

Granting Consent

Once the information has been received we'll write to you within 10 working days. Consent will not be withheld unreasonably, and may be granted subject to conditions, which must be followed. Under the Regulations, if we don't respond to you within 10 working days, consent is deemed to have been granted. This does not alter the obligation upon the installer, owner or occupier to see that the Regulations are fully met.

We do not charge for this work, but please note we are unable to provide a design service for plumbing works. However, we will try to answer your queries about the application of the Regulations.

Description of notifiable work	
1.	The erection of a building or structure, not being a pond or swimming pool
2.	The extension or alteration of a water system on any premises other than a house
3.	A material change of use of the premises
4.	The installation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A bath having a capacity as measured to the centre line of the overflow, of more than 230 litres. (b) A bidet with an ascending spray or flexible hose. (c) A single shower unit that may consist of one or more shower heads within a single unit of a type specified by the Regulator* (d) A pump or booster drawing more than 12 litres per min, connected directly/indirectly to a supply pipe (e) A unit which incorporates a reverse osmosis (f) A water treatment unit which produces a waste water discharge or which requires the use of water for re-generation or cleaning. (g) A reduced pressure zone (RPZ) valve assembly or other mechanical device for protection against a fluid which is in fluid Category 4 or 5 (h) A garden watering system unless designed to be operated by hand (i) Any water system laid outside a building and either less than 750mm or more than 1350mm below ground level.
5.	The construction of a pond or swimming pool with a capacity greater than 10,000 litres, which is designed to be replenished by automatic means with water supplied by the statutory water supplier.

* The Regulator has decided not to specify any shower types at present and therefore notification is not currently required for 4 (c).