



ARE YOU COMPLIANT?

What are the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations and Scottish Water Byelaws?

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations and Scottish Water Byelaws play an important role in protecting public health, safeguarding water supplies and promoting the efficient use of water within customers' premises across the UK.

They set legal requirements for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances. They have a specific purpose to prevent misuse, waste, undue consumption or erroneous measurement of water and, most importantly, to prevent contamination of drinking water.

Where do they apply?

These Regulations and Byelaws apply in all types of premises supplied, or to be supplied with water by a water company (the legal term for a water company is water undertaker).

They apply from the point where water enters the property's underground pipe (usually at the stop tap at the property boundary), to where the water is used in plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances.

These regulations do not apply where a property uses a private water supply and does not have a supply of water from a water company. If a top up supply, from a water company, is in place full regulations/byelaws would apply

Who has to comply with them?

A legal duty is placed on all users, owners or occupiers and anyone who installs plumbing systems or water fittings and water-using appliances to ensure they are installed and used in accordance with these regulations and byelaws.

Advanced notice must be given of proposed installations in specific cases, so architects, building developers and plumbers have to follow these regulations and byelaws on behalf of future owners or occupiers.

We are members of Water Industry Approved Plumbers' Scheme (WIAPS)



WIAPS is funded by sixteen Water Suppliers to administer an approved plumbers scheme for them. In order to become a WIAPS member, applicants have to demonstrate that they have been suitably trained as a plumber, that they have adequate knowledge of the Regulations by passing an assessment and they must be able to confirm that they have appropriate insurance cover.



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WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

HOW DO I BECOME COMPLIANT WITH WATER REGS AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION?

Yorkshire Water carries out thousands of site inspections without giving any notice of intent and can issue a section 75 notice giving you 7 days to carry out the rectifications required before disconnection and heavy penalties including court action. If you have been visited by a water inspector or want to be proactive and be ready for an inspection. Here are some frequently asked questions about the regulations:

Q. HOW DO THE WATER FITTINGS REGULATIONS AND BYELAWS AFFECT ME?

A. Your plumbing systems, water fittings and water-using appliances must be installed, maintained and used to comply with the Water Fittings Regulations or Scottish Water Byelaws.

You must prevent contamination of drinking water.

You must use water efficiently.

You must give advanced notification of installation work, in specific circumstances.

Q. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE WATER FITTINGS REGULATIONS?

A. Water Undertakers (the legal name for water suppliers) are duty bound to enforce the Water Fittings Regulations and Scottish Water Byelaws within their appointed water supply areas.

They will undertake inspections of new and existing installations to check that the regulations and byelaws are being met.

Q. WHAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN WHERE PLUMBING WORK IS FOUND TO BE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE WATER FITTINGS REGULATIONS OR BYELAWS?

A. Where contraventions of the Water Fittings Regulations and Scottish Water Byelaws are found, the water supplier will require them to be remedied as soon as practicable. Where breaches pose a risk to health or there is a significant waste of water, the water supply to the premises may be disconnected immediately to protect public health and prevent waste or damage to premises.

It is a criminal offence to contravene the regulations or byelaws and offenders may face prosecution. Those found guilty will have a criminal record, be fined and may have to pay costs.

Q. HOW DO I BECOME COMPLIANT WITH THE WATER FITTINGS REGULATIONS?

A. Give us a call to discuss the issues you have and we can arrange a site visit to give you an initial survey to see what you need to do. If you wish us to carry out the rectification work we will then provide you with a report for your local water authority to inform them of the work we are going to carry out on your behalf and our engineers will liaise with the inspectors throughout the process to ensure that you become compliant quickly and efficiently.

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