

## Safeguarding your health

If you are not connected to a Council water supply for the water you use for drinking, food preparation, washing-up and personal hygiene, then to safeguard your health the water needs treating before use.

What's the problem? I've been pumping water out of my creek for years and never had any ill effects.

The problem is that most natural water sources, except deep wells, are polluted with harmful bacteria and giardia. Any stream or river that runs through bush will pick up runoff from that bush. Animals in the bush such as possums, deer, goats, rats, birds and ferrets living in the bush may excrete harmful bacteria, protozoa and virus's.

If the stream or river runs through farmland, farm animals will likewise, contribute to the pollution of the water.

## How do you know it's polluted?

The streams and rivers in our area have been found to be bacterially unsafe to use without first being treated.

## But my water supply is crystal clear!

Bacteria do not necessarily affect the clarity of the water. The visual appearance of the water does not indicate whether or not the water is safe to drink.

## What about my roof water tank, surely that's okay?

No - water held in tanks fed from roof collected rain water has been found to also be bacterially unsafe. It becomes contaminated with bird droppings, dead birds, insects and the like, on the roof.

## Well then, what about the shallow bores and springs down the back of the farm?

Many of these have been found to also be bacterially unsafe without first being treated.

## So what water can I drink without first treating it?

Only deep bore water and then only if it is protected from contamination by surface water.

## How do I treat unsafe water supplies?

Contact one of the local companies who specialise in water treatment supplies, they will advise you on the best system for your particular water supply. Look under 'water treatment' in the yellow pages.

## I'm building a house on my farm and want to take water from the stream. What should I do?

To protect your health, the Building Code requires all water for drinking, food preparation, utensil washing and personal hygiene, to be uncontaminated and safe to drink. This means that the Building Consent for your house will include a requirement for some form of suitable treatment to ensure that the water supply to the house is adequate and safe to drink.

The final approval for your completed building work is called a Code Compliance Certificate. If your water supply has not been tested to prove potability or an appropriate filtration and sterilisation system has not been installed, the Code Compliance Certificate, when issued, will exclude the compliance of your water supply.

## Why can't I just put a water filter on the kitchen sink?

A filter will not stop bacteria and the water temperature in the hot water cylinder is not high enough to kill bacteria.

## What's involved in having the water tested?

The company supplying the water treatment equipment may recommend:

- a preliminary bacterial test to determine the degree of pollution, and/or

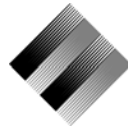
- chemical tests if other problems are suspected such as high iron levels or low pH content

The test results will help you and the installation company to decide on the best system to meet your needs.

## Water testing laboratories

Adrian Spence	Environment BOP Quay Street Whakatane Ph: 0800 368267
Sarah Stiles-Jones	NZLABS Ruakura Research Centre East Street Hamilton Ph: 07 838 5920
Paul Cook	NZLABS Ruakura Research Centre East Street Hamilton Ph: 07 838 5920

Please talk to the laboratory staff regarding your testing requirements.



**Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council**

*Any water  
supply  
other than  
a properly  
protected  
deep bore  
supply, needs  
treating  
before drinking*

TAURANGA – HEAD OFFICE  
CAMERON ROAD  
BARKES CORNER  
PRIVATE BAG 12803  
TAURANGA  
PHONE (07) 571 8008  
FAX (07) 577 9820  
FREEPHONE 0800 WBOPDC (926732)

TE PUKE LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE  
JELlicOE STREET  
TE PUKE  
PHONE (07) 573 9862  
FAX (07) 573 6728

KATIKATI LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE  
MAIN ROAD  
KATIKATI  
PHONE (07) 549 0119  
FAX (07) 549 0935

OMOKOROA LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE  
McDONNELL STREET  
OMOKOROA  
PHONE (07) 548 2643  
FAX (07) 548 2941

WAIHI BEACH LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE  
WAIHI BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE  
WAIHI BEACH  
PHONE (07) 863 4573  
FAX (07) 863 5749

# *Safe Drinking Water*

*For householders not on  
Council supply*

INFORMATION VALID AT TIME OF PRINT 10/08