



PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY CHECKLIST

This information is aimed at those who are considering the purchase of a property which is served by a private water supply.

Our aim is to minimise future difficulties in this regard by allowing you to make an informed decision.

**Contact us: The Water Team - 01738 476476
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There is a lot to consider when you are buying a property, and private water supplies are extremely variable. Some are straightforward, with modern and easily maintained treatment systems, but many are not. We hope that the time you spend researching your potential private water supply will minimise future problems for you. The list below is not intended to be exhaustive, merely to encourage consideration of some of the risk factors to consider. Please note that a private water supply will be **your** responsibility, there may be little that the local authority can do if the supply proves to be problematical.

Private water supplies are easily contaminated and you should be aware of the associated health risks such as the possibility of illness caused by E. coli O157, Campylobacter and Cryptosporidium etc. This is especially important for vulnerable groups such as children, the very old, and those who are immunocompromised.

WHERE DOES THE WATER COME FROM?

- 1 – Find out as much as possible about the source of the water supply, such as the type of source (e.g. borehole, spring, open supply such as a burn), its location and the owner of the land. Also try to find out about the nature and location of any associated pipework, tanks etc.
- 2 – Find out who looks after the supply. This might be the landowner or a member of the local community.
- 3 – Will you be charged for the water?
- 4 – Is there a central treatment plant on the supply?
- 5 – Is there any information regarding the quality or quantity of water to be supplied in the deeds of the property?
- 6 – Are there times when water is scarce, or the supply dries up altogether? If the owners of the property you are considering purchasing have not been resident there for very long consider speaking to longer term users of the supply.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WATER AT THE PROPERTY?

- 1 – Find out as much as you can about any pumps and treatment systems? Are there instruction books, maintenance schedules and contacts for parts? Ensure that there is enough room around any treatment to allow for maintenance, for example replacement of Ultra Violet system bulbs and sleeve cleaning can be very awkward if the design has not been well thought out.
- 2 – Ensure that treatment is 'point of entry' rather than 'point of use'. It is not sufficient to have only one tap within a property which is safe to drink.

- Non – means tested grant assistance of up to £800 per property is available to improve failing supplies; and our Water Officers give applicants every help to complete the process.
- We welcome requests for further information or discussion regarding a particular supply; please do not hesitate to contact us. **The Water Team - 01738 476476**
ES@pkc.gov.uk
- Visit www.privatewatersupplies.gov.uk for more information