

You should ensure that your guests have an adequate supply of safe water for drinking and washing.

A significant proportion of self-catering premises, especially those in rural areas, are not on the mains water supply provided by Scottish Water. For those properties on a Private Water Supply, it is important that you ensure your water is safe for guests to use.

Untreated and poorly treated water supplies can contain bacteria, such as *E. coli* O157 and metals which can cause serious illnesses and even death, especially for visitors who are not used to the supply.

Research has shown that children under 10 are five times more likely to suffer stomach upsets when drinking from a contaminated supply – this rate of illness is similar to that in developing countries.

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BEST PRACTICE

Maintain any equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and keep records of maintenance work undertaken (this could help show that you have acted responsibly if there is a disease outbreak connected to your water supply).

MUST

Provide details of the supply in publicity information or correspondence which is accurate and does not mislead guests.

For example you should only describe water as spring water if it comes directly from a spring, water extracted from a burn or loch should be described as such.

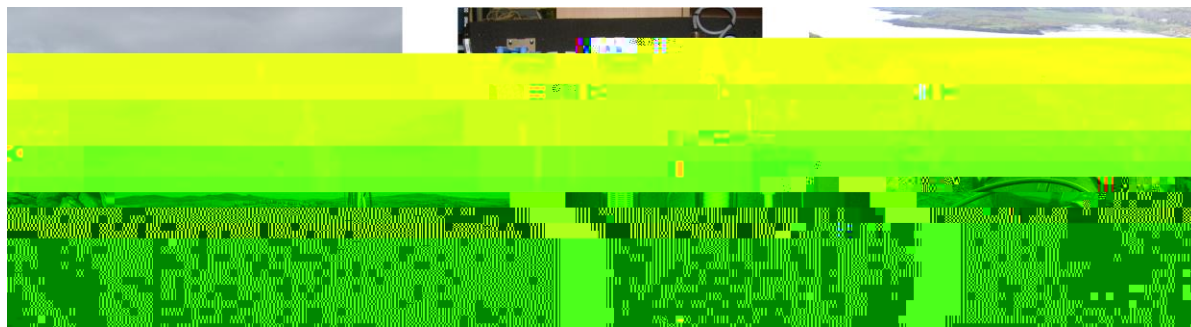
BEST PRACTICE

Make guests aware of any expected interruptions to the supply and provide details of how to obtain water if alternative supplies, e.g. bowsers, are to be provided.

Improvement Grants

A non-means tested grant is available to treat, improve or increase storage on private water supplies.

The grant will pay up to £800 per property and enables property owners to install treatment and carryout other improvements to make the supply safer.



Various works can be eligible for the grant

You may be eligible for financial assistance if:

- Your self-catering premises is in the Argyll and Bute area and served by a private water supply;
- The private water supply is the main or sole source of water for human consumption purposes to these premises; and
- Your private water supply is in need of improvement to bring it up to modern standards.

You should not start any of the improvement works before your application is approved and we have agreed that the expenditure is necessary.

A risk assessment of your supply will be carried out by an officer from Environmental Health (if not already completed) to establish the details of improvements required to conform to the Private Water Supplies (Regulations) 2006.

There are some exceptions to Grant eligibility, the most common being:

- New builds;

- Houses under Closing Orders, Demolition Orders or a Dangerous Building Notice;

- Empty or unoccupied premises.

You can find out more information and apply for a grant at