



## What you need to do

It is the legal duty of the owner, occupier, installer or plumber to ensure the regulations are met and to notify Northern Ireland Water before the work begins.

If the owner or occupier doesn't seek permission, then the duty rests with the installer or plumber.

To gain permission, which is free, Northern Ireland Water will need:

- Name, address and contact details
- A description of the proposed work and the location
- The plumbing contractor's name and address if an approved plumber is being used.

Northern Ireland Water may ask for additional information such as a list of water fittings and evidence of their compliance with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland).

## What is an approved plumber?

Approved plumbers have specific training in how to work safely with drinking water and are able to carry out some plumbing work without notifying Northern Ireland Water.

An approved plumber will issue a certificate to state the work has been carried out in line with the regulations.

WaterSafe is the UK body for approved plumbers. Find your nearest approved business using the postcode search at [watersafe.org.uk](https://watersafe.org.uk).

## What happens next

You can start work when you have received permission from Northern Ireland Water. A response is normally received within 10 working days.

If you don't receive a response within this time, you can assume you have consent and start work. However, the plumbing work must still comply with the regulations. If it doesn't, you may need to make changes later.

## Water Supply Regulations

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 misuse, waste, excessive consumption or wrong measurement of water and, most importantly, to prevent contamination. The regulations are:

- The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
- The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 in England and Wales
- The Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014.

## Find out more

To find out more about the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and notifications, visit Northern Ireland Water's website at [niwater.com](https://niwater.com) or Water Regs UK at [waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/legislation/notification/](https://waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/legislation/notification/).



**Water Supply Regulations**  
For all you need to know, visit  
[waterregsuk.co.uk](https://waterregsuk.co.uk)



**Need a plumber?**  
Find an accredited business near you at [watersafe.org.uk](https://watersafe.org.uk)

A large graphic on the right side of the page. It features a dark blue background with a white, stylized pipe network. A plumber, depicted in a white shirt, blue overalls, and a blue cap, is standing within the pipe network, holding a wrench. The plumber is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the graphic.

# Planning some plumbing work?

## Know the law

**northern ireland  
water**  
The logo for Northern Ireland Water, featuring the text "northern ireland water" in a sans-serif font, with "northern ireland" in a smaller font above "water". Below the text is a stylized blue wave graphic.  
[www.niwater.com](https://www.niwater.com)

If you're planning plumbing work, you may need to get permission from Northern Ireland Water before you start.

This is to make sure plumbing systems meet UK standards designed to keep our drinking water safe.

Notifications are required by law and cover a wide range of work, including building a house, installing a swimming pool or altering a water system on business premises.

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) apply to all plumbing within the boundary of a residential or commercial property and to appliances such as washing machines.

Notifying Northern Ireland Water is free and the process is quick, but failure to do so could result in prosecution or the need to carry out costly extra work at a later date.

## Types of plumbing work covered

Northern Ireland Water must be notified if the work you are planning includes:

