



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 the water supplier 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, the water supplier 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.

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

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 the water supplier.

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.

What happens next

You can start work when you have received permission from the water supplier. 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 1999 in England and Wales
- The Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014
- The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Find out more

To find out more about the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations and notifications, visit your water supplier's website or Water Regs UK at waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/legislation/notification/



Need a plumber?
Find an accredited business near you at watersafe.org.uk



Planning some plumbing work?

Know the law



If you're planning plumbing work, you may need to get permission from your local water supplier 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 apply to all plumbing within the boundary of a residential or commercial property and to appliances such as washing machines.

Notifying your water supplier 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

Your water supplier must be notified if the work you are planning includes:



This list is not exhaustive and there are extra requirements in Scotland and Northern Ireland.