

Linking cold water storage cisterns

Checklist

✓ Is notification required?

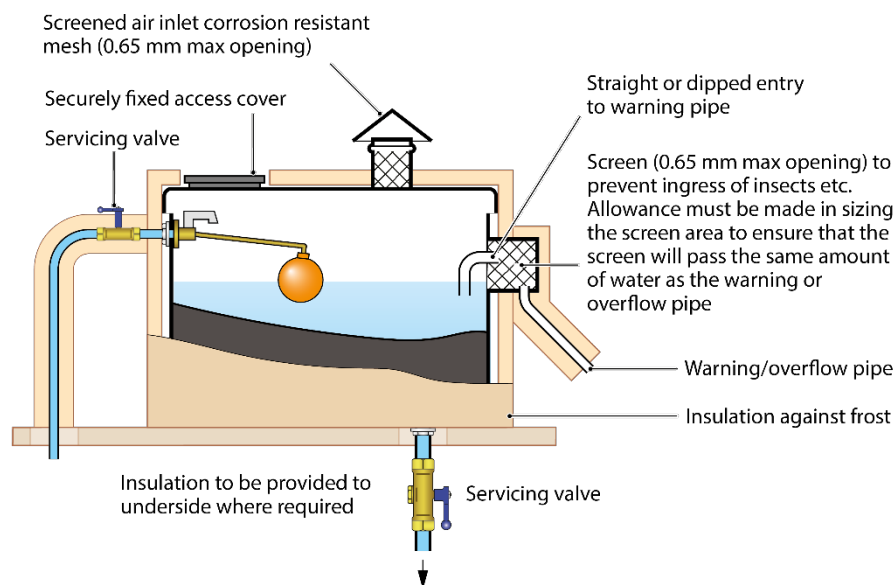
In many cases the local water undertaker will need advanced notification, this is an important simple and essential check to minimise the risk to water supplies both on site and in the wider community. Further information can be found [here](#).

✓ Is the cistern of an appropriate quality and standard, and suitable for installation?

All parts must be corrosion resistant and of an appropriate quality and standard i.e. conform to either the Regulators Specification or a British Standard.

They must also be suitable for use, meaning:

- All any materials in contact with the water must be for use with wholesome water. For example, non-metallic materials, including any surface where condensate forms, must conform to BS 6920 (or an equivalent).
- Cisterns should be watertight and where appropriate lined or coated with suitable impermeable materials.
- In addition to an inlet, outlet, overflow pipe and warning arrangement a cistern should have a rigid close fitting and securely fixed lid or cover. Cisterns, and their lids, should be made of materials which do not shatter or fragment when broken.



✓ Is the cistern the right size ?

To ensure it remains wholesome it is important water is stored for as short a period as possible, so correctly sizing the cisterns is critical.

Factors which should be considered when sizing a cistern include occupancy (intended and actual) and usage. Suggestions for storage capacity are given in [BS EN 806-2](#).



How should a cold water storage cistern be installed ?

Things to consider when deciding where and how to install include, but are not limited to:

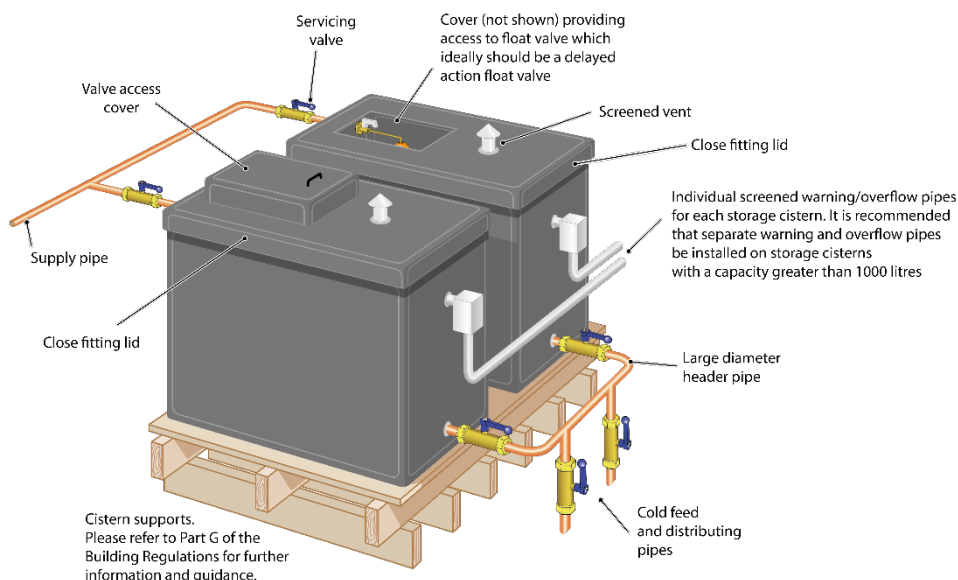
- whether the distributing pipework is to be pumped or supplied by gravity
- the need to allow for ease of access to the cistern for maintenance, inspection (both internally and externally) and cleaning.
- environmental factors which might affect water quality such as excessive heat gain or the likelihood of flooding



How should a cold water storage cistern be linked ?

To limit the risk of water stagnation inter-linked storage cisterns should be avoided wherever possible. Where it is unavoidable, the number of inter-linked cisterns should be minimised and:

- the storage volume kept to a minimum
- cisterns should be connected in parallel
- any demand should create water flow throughout each cistern
- inlet and outlets should be installed at opposite ends of the cistern
- delayed action float valves should be used.
- metering of inlets may assist with balancing of turnover.



Please note other requirements apply refer to the Guidance published by Water Regs UK for further information

<https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/>



This information is non-statutory intended as general advice only; it is subject to change. Conformity with this information should not be relied upon as guaranteeing compliance with the water fittings regulations/byelaws or no enforcement action will be taken by water undertakers. Water Regs UK accepts no liability for loss, indirect or consequential loss arising from or in connection with this document.