

What are the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations/byelaws in Scotland and why are they so important?

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The water fittings regulations in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, along with the byelaws in Scotland, are legal requirements that apply in premises with a mains water supply, even if it's just a backup. These rules are an essential part of public health legislation aimed at protecting our drinking water.

Their main goal is to prevent contamination, misuse, waste, excessive consumption of water. To achieve this, they set legal requirements for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of water fittings and water-using appliances.

Ensuring compliance is crucial for maintaining the safety and integrity of our drinking water supplies. Here's what you need to know:

Give Advance Notice and Get Consent

- Giving advance notice and obtaining consent from the local water undertaker is a key legal requirement. This process helps ensure the correct judgements such as for backflow prevention have been made. Ensuring that all work is notified and approved helps safeguard against non-compliance and potential public health risks.

Certification for Approved Contractors:

- Getting the right installers with the correct knowledge is important. Use a WaterSafe approved installer who are all trained to meet these strict regulations. Only Approved installers can issue Certificate of Compliance to clients and the water company – providing additional piece of mind.

Stay Informed:

- Detailed guidance and the most current information is provided on behalf of enforcing water companies. This resource will help ensure that all your work is compliant with the necessary standards and regulations and is available at:
<https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/>.

Which fittings to use:

- The only way to ensure fittings being used are compliant is for them to be tested to appropriate standards. This could be by manufacturers or by trusted independent third-party testers, such as KIWA, NSF or WRAS. These companies can provide designers, specifiers, installers and consumers additional reassurance that fittings have been properly tested. It is easy to check using their publish approved lists.

Non-compliance:

There are a variety of potential consequences when a contravention of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations/byelaws is identified by a local water company.

Depending on the contravention systems could be disconnected, water fittings be required to be replaced. Non-compliance could result court proceedings and a fine, or worse, a criminal record.

About Water Regs UK

Water Regs UK plays a crucial role in supporting water companies across the UK to ensure they can supply safe and resilient water. By promoting the Water Fittings Regulations and Byelaws, we help protect public health by ensuring water is safe to drink and not wasted.

For more information about their services and to access resources, please visit the Water Regs UK website: <https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/>