love every drop.

anglianwater

WATER REGULATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PREMISES

Information guide for farmers

DOES YOUR AGRICULTURAL PREMISES COMPLY WITH WATER SUPPLY REGULATIONS?

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations were introduced in 1999 by the Government to protect public health by safeguarding the drinking water supply. Their main aim is to prevent contamination but also cover misuse and waste of water by implementing a series of rules and guidance about how water fittings should be used and installed.

The Regulations apply from the point water enters the property boundary to the point of use and applies to everyone with a mains water connection.

The Regulations are not retrospective but older installations must still comply with the Byelaws which were applicable at the time.

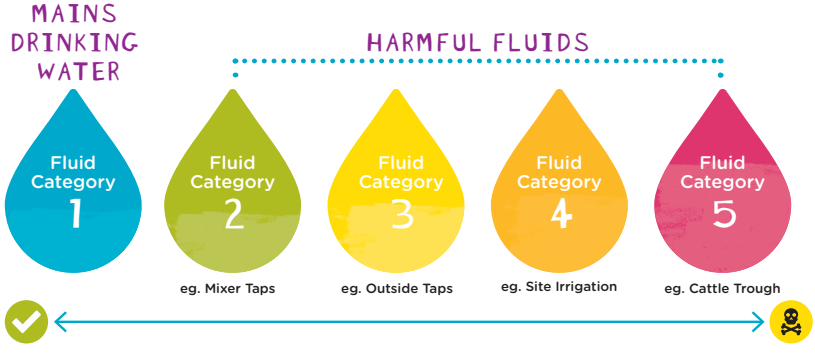
LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Water companies have a legal obligation to enforce the Regulations in their area of supply. We carry out inspections of new and existing installations to ensure compliance. Where infringements are found, improvement notices will be issued stating a date for rectification. For serious infringements we can legally disconnect water supplies to protect public health.

Anglian Water has a duty to carry out our water regulations inspection on all properties where it is the wholesaler. You may wish to contact your retailer for more information on how they can help.

FLUID CATEGORIES

The Regulations place potential contaminants into one of five fluid categories depending on the harm it may cause, with one being the lowest and five the highest. Protecting the water supply is done by putting in a series of barriers between the mains water and the contaminant to prevent it mixing and going back into the mains water supply; such as from a single check valve to a physical air gap.



1 ANIMAL DRINKING TROUGHS

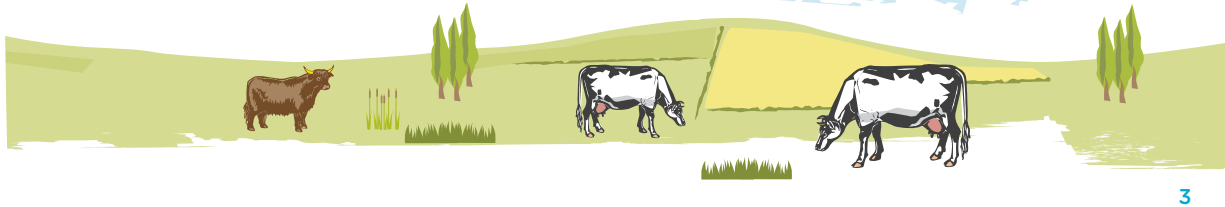
Water in troughs is exposed to the elements and has the potential to become contaminated by things like animal droppings. Therefore making it the highest fluid risk requiring a suitable barrier to stop it getting back into the mains water.

AVOID:

- **Submerged inlet**
- **Overflowing trough**

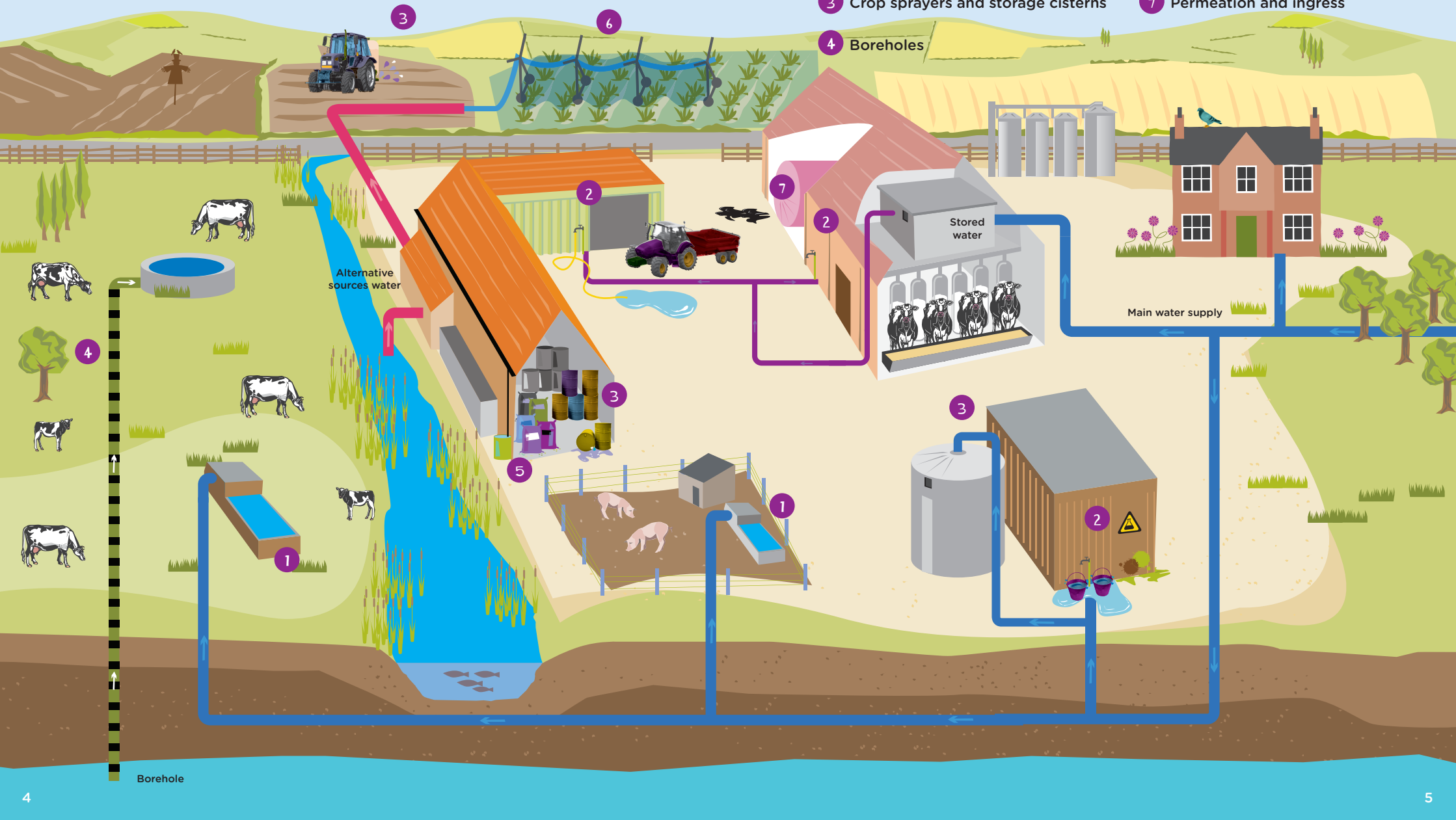
SOLUTION:

- **Fit a raised service box** – allows water to go over the edge of the trough before submerging the inlet.
- **Cut out the side of the trough** – prevents water submerging the inlet and means you don't have to move the ball valve.
- **Check the trough is level** and the ball valve is still working.



POTENTIAL RISK AREAS AROUND YOUR PREMISES WHERE WATER CAN BECOME CONTAMINATED

1. Animal drinking troughs
2. Outside taps – various applications
3. Crop sprayers and storage cisterns
4. Boreholes
5. Rainwater harvesting
6. Irrigation systems
7. Permeation and ingress



2 OUTSIDE TAPS

Outside taps are used for many purposes and the risk changes depending on the use.

USE	RISK	ACTION REQUIRED
• General watering • Common domestic use	Fluid Category 3	Double check valve
• Moderate commercial use	Fluid Category 4	Double Check Valve and retractable reel with trigger gun
• Heavy commercial use e.g. washing down slurry • Mixing chemicals	Fluid Category 5	Only supply from storage with an air gap

QUICK FIX Use retaining clips or cable ties to secure a hose in place to stop it dangling in water or on the ground.

Hoses should NEVER be submerged in buckets, troughs or in drains nor left lying on the ground

3 CROP SPRAYERS AND STORAGE CISTERNS

Water is often stored on premises for a wide range of uses some involving chemicals. Where these chemicals are used the water must be protected by an appropriate backflow prevention device, in most cases this is an air gap.

If the storage cistern does not have a built in air gap they can be modified to incorporate one:

SOLUTION

- Cutting a hole in the side of the cistern to prevent the ball valve inlet becoming submerged.
- Drop the water into the top of the cistern via a raised service box.

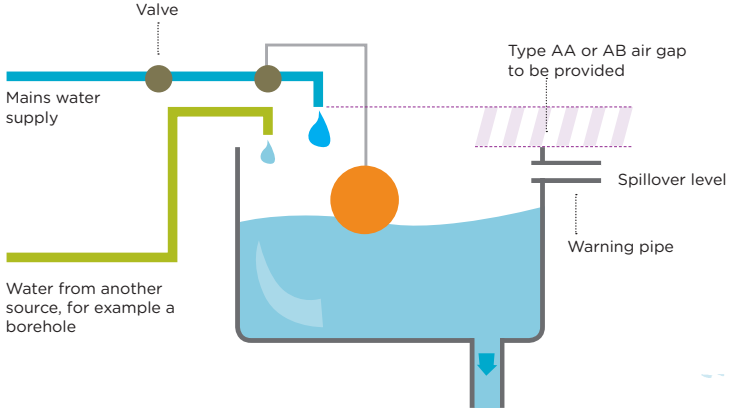
4 BOREHOLES

Many farms have boreholes installed to provide an alternative source of water. Many are used for purely irrigation, some are used to supply water to animals and some for domestic drinking purposes.

Where mains back-up supplies are added it is important to remember they must NOT be connected to the borehole by any form of pipework.

If you want mains water and an alternative source of water going into the same cistern then the below set up is a good example of how this can be achieved.

If you are thinking of installing a borehole with a mains back-up supply you should contact the Water Regulations Team who can offer free advice to ensure you comply with the Regulations.



5 RAINWATER

Take extra care if you have other systems in your property like rainwater harvesting, grey water re-use or solar water heating systems. These should never be directly connected to your drinking water supply. If you are thinking of installing one let us know so we can make sure you are compliant by using the correctly coded pipework (coloured green and black) and the appropriate air gap.

WHAT IS AN AIR GAP?

An air gap is a visible, unobstructed break in the supply water and stored water preventing anything being drawn back into the drinking water should a vacuum occur.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation - for small systems with no additives a double check valve can be used. For bigger systems or ones with additives a physical air gap is needed.

7 WATCH FOR SPILLS

Spillages of chemicals and fuels near to plastic water pipes have the potential to seep through the plastic and contaminate the drinking water.

There are a few simple steps you can take to protect your drinking water. We recommend that you:

- **Store any hazardous chemicals in suitable containers** away from plastic pipework. Remember that it is not just visible pipes that could be at risk. Pipes which run from our water mains to your premises underground could be made of plastic too.
- **Regularly check chemicals or fuel containers for leaks**
- **Take care when using chemicals and fuels** around the workplace and clean up any spillages quickly.

PLUMBING PROBLEMS

To avoid contaminating your water supply you should only use suitably approved fixtures and fittings. Not all products you can buy are approved. Look out for the following logos for approved products.

We recommend that fixtures and fittings are installed by a member of a water company approved plumber scheme such as WaterSafe. You can find a list on our website **anglianwater.co.uk/approved-plumber**

PLUMBING EXTENSIONS OR ALTERATIONS?

If you're planning an extension or alteration to any of your plumbing then let us know about it. Just like councils and planning permission you need approval from your water company before you change certain fittings and fixtures.

Ask for a Reg 5 form or download one from our website. The form gives us details of your plans which we will look over and then give our approval or suggest changes to ensure it complies with the Regulations.

We will then come out and give a free inspection to make sure all is going to plan. We are here to help you comply with the Regulations so you don't have to put it right at a later date, potentially saving you money.

FURTHER INFO

We have some useful tips on our website to make sure your plumbing is correct. You can also find details of our inspection process for ensuring your business complies with the Water Fitting Regulations.

Alternatively please contact the team email:
WaterRegulations@anglianwater.co.uk

Telephone:
01603 247249

Visit:
anglianwater.co.uk/waterregs

NEED SOME HELP?

By email:

WaterRegulations@anglianwater.co.uk

Website:

anglianwater.co.uk/waterregs

Phone:

01603 247249

For general queries about your water and water recycling services, please contact your retailer.

LED540/04/16